

HOME NEWS.

Paramilitary elements joining UDR, Roman Catholics say

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Unionist politicians were incensed yesterday at an attack on the Ulster Defence Regiment presented by Roman Catholic political leaders to Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

A lengthy paper drawn up by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the main voice of Roman Catholic moderates, accuses the UDR of being infiltrated by "loyalist" paramilitary activists.

The UDR, which was established on January 1, 1970, has about 8,000 soldiers serving in 11 battalions. Three-quarters of its members are part-time. The Regiment operates mainly at night and at weekends and undertakes the full range of military duties except riot control.

The paper was prepared as the party's first submission to Mr Atkins in talks covering security, the EEC and the economy, all matters which are not being discussed at the constitutional conference. The talks, which opened at Stormont Castle on Wednesday, will be resumed in three weeks.

The SDLP said that future security policy envisaged the continued "Ulsterization" of security, involving the gradual withdrawal of British Army personnel and their replacement by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the UDR. That would cast the UDR in an ever-increasing paramilitary role.

The UDR, which in Ulster becomes the RUC's back-up service, has by far the worst record for serious sectarian crimes of any regiment presently in service with the British Army forces on land, sea or air", the party said.

A sharp reply by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, rejected the "vicious" comments, which were part of the overall plan to get Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom.

The SDLP said that every serving UDR man should be

security rescreened to root out paramilitary elements. "Until this is done the regiment will be identified among the minority community as a menace to, rather than a support for, law and order."

Both the RUC and UDR were overwhelmingly drawn from the loyalist tradition (96 per cent and 93 per cent respectively) and therefore were completely unrepresentative of the community at large. "This is, to an extent, represents Westminster's failure to convince the majority that the dispensation of justice here is even-handed," the party said.

The emergency powers legislation was also severely criticized. Although the measures were designed to combat specific terrorist activity, they had been used increasingly in addition as devices to gather and computerize information.

Their impact has also been discriminatory, bearing most heavily on Catholic areas even though para-military terrorist groups operate with equal ferocity from both traditions.

One of the most serious consequences of the continued operation of the Emergency Powers Act had been the involvement of the police and Army in patterns of grave breaches of the law, the SDLP said.

In a reference to the appointment of Sir Maurice Oldfield to coordinate the activities of the police and Army, the paper says: "The primacy of law and order has been challenged by the appointment of a former undercover soldier to head security and by the announced expansion of undercover activities which are inherently dismissive of legal convention."

Bombs start fire: Two incendiary bombs exploded in a furniture store in Belfast yesterday. Two men entered the store, in Woodstock Road, planted the devices, ordered out the staff and escaped in a hijacked car (the Press Association reports).

The bombs exploded moments later, starting a severe fire.

Ulster backs plea for more EEC funds

From Our Own Correspondent
Belfast

The Northern Ireland Office has told the United Kingdom's 81 European MPs that it would welcome a new or greater role for the use of EEC funds in Ulster.

A briefing note to the MEPs supports a resolution tabled in the European Parliament urging the Commission to make proposals on how additional EEC resources might be made available to the province.

The resolution was tabled by Mr John Hume, a European MP and leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. He said that the Government's support increased the possibility of his resolution succeeding. He has the support of the 113 members of the socialist group.

The Government's note says: "Northern Ireland suffers from acute social and economic problems. It has the highest unemployment rate in the United Kingdom and many other social indicators show a higher level of deprivation than in the rest of the United Kingdom."

It says that unemployment is 11 per cent and earnings are about 59 per cent of the EEC average. The decline of traditional industries means heavy reliance is placed on incoming companies, and financial assistance to industry is more generous than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

The note adds pointedly: "The United Kingdom's general ability to help depressed regions is handicapped by the large net cost to it of the Community budget."

Northern Ireland has commitments of £40m for 1978 and 1979 under the regional development fund; the European social fund allocation for 1979 is estimated to be £30m; the Commission proposes an allocation of £5.2m for tourism and artisan enterprises.

A share of a proposed £11m allocation to the United Kingdom for areas affected by the decline in shipbuilding will go to Belfast.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Captain Kelly Hamilton, aged 30, a woman stratotanker pilot in the United States Air Force, at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, yesterday, after a refuelling mission.

Leicestershire plans to cut careers staff by 40%

By Mark Jackson
of The Times Educational Supplement

Leicestershire is to cut the staff of its county careers department by 40 per cent, by far the biggest reduction so far contemplated in the local authority careers service.

The cut is likely to embarrass Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, today when he presents the first report of his department's careers service branch and inspectorate, who supervise the local authority departments.

He is presiding over the conference because of the importance that ministers attach to the careers service. They have repeatedly said that it has a vital role.

The decision by Leicestershire, whose careers department is already about a fifth below the strength recommended by the Department of Employment, will draw attention to the authority careers service.

The cut of £100,000 in Leicestershire's careers staff budget represents about 0.1 per cent of the county's education budget, which is being reduced by 6 per cent.

The National Union of Teachers, who say they question the statement that the proposals are unlikely to mean any redundancies among teachers, are balloting their members on whether to strike next month.

Magazine director given a suspended jail sentence

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

The managing director of a magazine who was known as "God" to his workers was described by a judge yesterday as "an unscrupulous hamburgher".

Mr Guy Wayne, aged 72, was given a nine months' suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £5,000 towards the prosecution costs of his four-week trial.

Mr Wayne, of Colston Bassett Hall, near Nottingham, said to Judge Denis Lloyd: "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I am not guilty and shall appeal."

The judge told him that he was not an honourable man and people he dealt with in future would know he was dishonest.

Mr Wayne was convicted on two charges of conspiracy to defraud advertisers over an eight-year period by falsely inflating the circulation figures of two magazines, *The Tailor and Tailor*, and *Nottinghamshire Observer*. He was cleared on a third charge.

His former deputy managing director, Malcolm Campbell, of Fishpond Drive, The Park, Nottingham, was convicted on two charges and cleared on one. He was fined £650, but there was no order for costs.

Mr William Joss, for the defence, said Mr Campbell had suffered financial ruin as the result of his association with Mr Wayne.

The company's chartered accountant, Arthur Dewey, aged 55, of Victoria Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, was cleared on all charges.

Dr Graham jeered as he preaches

From Trevor Fishlock
Oxford

Dr Billy Graham faced some jeering and catcalls as he preached his evangelist message in Oxford town hall last night.

As he called on the 1,000 people there to stand and recite the Lord's Prayer, there was a clear shout from the back of the hall: "This is the psychology of fascism."

But Dr Graham did not flinch as he spoke the prayer. Nor did he pause at the other shouts and murmurings which punctuated his familiar message to people to make a commitment to God.

He kept going even when a firebrand ran loudly through the hall for two minutes. Raising his voice, he cried: "You can communicate with God through Jesus Christ and you need never be lonely."

Dr Graham could not know that about halfway through his preaching the television transmissions to three of the five

overflow hall in the neighbourhood, seating about 5,000 people who could not get into the town hall, were suddenly ended. Apparently cables had been disconnected.

The organizers of Dr Graham's visit to Oxford had expected trouble after some faint rumblings of protest in the city.

Just before the evangelist went to the lectern to begin his preaching, Canon Michael Green, one of the organizers of the visit, quoted from a slip of paper which had been distributed outside the hall by "Oxford anarchists".

The paper said: "Warning. This man operates by working his audience up to mass hysteria. He supported Nixon over Watergate, and the bombing of Cambodia. He is likely to ask for your money."

If any people in the audience had been expecting the sort of high-powered approach with which Dr Graham has made his

'Danger' in BR historic buildings policy

By Our Education Correspondent

Staffordshire is the latest target of the National Union of Teachers' anger. A local union delegation will meet Mr William Bell, chairman of the historic buildings committee of the Greater London Council, as a "dangerous precedent".

The historic buildings committee has the responsibility of seeing that owners of historic buildings, of which there are many in London, including a number of British Rail, observe their statutory responsibilities. It does not have financial responsibility for the upkeep of those buildings.

British Rail, which invited towns and cities with redundant railway historic buildings to "take them off our hands" and put them to other use, should make an appropriation in budgets for their upkeep, Mr Bell said.

Registration of homes for old to be reviewed

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, is reviewing arrangements for the registration of private and voluntary residential homes for the elderly, he said yesterday.

Mr Jenkin was answering a question in the Commons from Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, who had asked for an inquiry into private institutional care for elderly people to make sure that they were not exploited.

Mr Jenkin said that he would take up with Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, the question whether the owners or staff of homes for the elderly should be made ineligible to benefit by gifts or through bequests from those in their care.

Killer marries former censor's daughter

Mr James Boyle, aged 35, who has been a minimum 15-year life sentence at Barlinnie prison, Glasgow, for murder and assault, was married at a register office in Balfour, Central Scotland, yesterday, to Dr Sarah Trevelyan, aged 29, daughter of Mr John Trevelyan, the former film censor.

Teachers angry as another county plans £8m cuts

By Our Education Correspondent

It was also planning to close 33 schools by the summer of next year, which would involve the loss of 80 teaching posts. Already last year 433 teaching posts had been cut. Over the next five years the county was proposing to cut a total of £18m from its education budget.

Mr David Lightbown, chairman of the Staffordshire education committee, confirmed that his committee had last week approved proposed cuts of £8.25m and the closure of 33 primary schools over the next year.

But the claim that the county was considering any further cuts was "scurrilous, argumentative and not correct".

Change in Bill urged to save short tenancies

By John Young

An amendment to the Housing Bill which would permit the continuation and expansion of short-term tenancies in the public as well as the private sector is to be suggested to the Department of the Environment.

The amendment is being proposed by Shelter, by the Housing Emergency Office and by the National Federation of Housing Associations. It arises from concern at the implications of extending security of tenure to the public sector, which includes housing associations.

Under the Bill, an exception is made for tenancies of properties that have been acquired for development. The amendment would seek to include those which have been let on an agreed short-term basis pending renovation or improvement.

Without such a change in the Bill, it is feared that councils and housing associations which have agreed to make houses and flats available on a temporary basis will seek to evict the tenants before the Bill becomes law. That has already happened in the case of the Peabody Housing Association, which recently gave notice to about fifty tenants in London.

Mr Thomas Hearn, Director of the Peabody Trust, said yesterday that the Bill failed to recognize existing short-term tenancies or to make provision for new ones.

Big rise in air security levy

Airline passengers will have to pay through their ticket a security levy increased by 95 per cent to £1.60 from today. The Board of Airline Representatives in the United Kingdom has protested to the Government.

The board also criticized the Government's decision to finance the £400m development of Stansted airport largely through revenues at Heathrow. It was "inequitable" because most air lines using Heathrow would never use Stansted, it said.

Councils will try for plan to avert block grant

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Local government leaders saw Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday to try to persuade him that the Government's proposals for a new block grant system are not necessary.

They are united in their opposition to the block grant, which they believe will mean Government interference in the decisions of each individual council, and are hoping they can get the proposal dropped from the Local Government Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

Mr Heseltine believes the block grant system for financing local spending is the way to achieve the overall control the Government wants, and therefore gave little hope to the local authority leaders that he would change his mind.

Mr Heseltine did, however, tell them that if together they can produce an alternative plan which will both satisfy them and fulfil the Government's criteria, it will be studied seriously.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said after the meeting that they believed council spending and rate-fixing should be in the hands of the locally elected representatives.

He said the associations will be putting forward a paper with alternative proposals.

Bars may close at Christmas

Most managed public houses may be closed for the whole of Christmas Day from this year if the breweries yield to growing pressure from within the biggest trade union representing managers.

The annual conference of the National Association of Licensed House Managers in April is likely to approve resolutions calling for a campaign for closure on Christmas Day.

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HOME NEWS

Leading doctors say Bill will mean more septic abortions

By Annabel Ferriman

The Abortion (Amendment) Bill will result in a return to the "scourge" of septic abortion, 70 leading doctors, surgeons and professors of obstetrics and gynaecology say in a letter to *The Lancet*.

The Bill, sponsored by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute, is due to reach its report stage on February 8.

The signatories say that although the Bill was presented as a modest measure aimed at eliminating late abortion, they regard it as "a most swing attack which would, according to one of its supporters, cut abortion by two thirds and destroy the charities".

The letter says that a reduction in the upper time limit to 24 weeks is acceptable but 24 weeks is too early and will cause suffering in the small number of cases where, unhappily, late abortion is necessary.

An upper time limit of 20 weeks will inevitably mean that many doctors will be unwilling to terminate after 16 or 18 weeks because of the impossibility of being absolutely certain about gestation dates.

The signatories include Sir George Godber, former chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, Sir Richard Doll, pro-

Dyslexic plea is rejected

A father yesterday failed in the High Court to compel a local education authority to pay the "cost" of educating his dyslexic son for the past five years at independent boarding schools, and to provide special education for him.

Mr Justice Caulfield, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said that Cornwall County Council had not acted unreasonably in deciding that Nicholas Reynolds, now nearly 16, could receive suitable education within the state system.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, agreed that an action brought by Mr Michael William Reynolds, the proprietor of a tropical bird garden, of Glanmor, Treliwick Road, Hayle, Cornwall, against the county council and Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, should be dismissed.

The court made an order for costs against Mr Reynolds, but directed that it should not be enforced without leave.

Whitehall unions set up contingency 'mirror image'

Plan to paralyse government

By Peter Hennessy

Civil Service unions are planning to paralyze the heart of central government, including the House of Commons, 10 Downing Street and ministerial private offices, should their pay negotiations break down.

They are about to establish a joint working party designed to counter the work of the two secret Cabinet committees which Mrs Margaret Thatcher has charged with finding ways of mitigating the consequences of Civil Service strikes on the Government machine and the public.

A senior union official said that the working party would be the "mirror image" of rival contingency planners sitting on the Cabinet's Economy Civil Service Committee and the Economy (Official) Civil Service Committee, details of which were published in *The Times* on Wednesday. The Cabinet committees "are fighting last year's battle", he said.

Most of Whitehall's "winter of discontent" last year was caused by the two largest Civil Service unions, the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants. This year a wider range of targets across the whole spectrum of Civil Service work could be selected, as more unions are involved.

The idea of a joint union working party arose at a meeting of general secretaries on January 22. Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Mr John Sheldon of the Civil Service Union and Mr Peter Jones of the National Staff Side of the Whitley Council.

Its first task will be to appeal

to union members for a "fighting fund" of £2m. Attention will be paid to areas of possible disruption, especially the commanding heights of Whitehall.

"There is a Clausewitzian air about it this year, it is being planned as if it were a military strategy," a union official said.

Details of Ministry of Defence contingency plans designed to sustain the procurement of vital defence equipment and implementation during the Civil Service computer strikes of February-May last year are disclosed in a report Sir Douglas Hensley Comptroller and Auditor General Parliament's spending watchdog.

Referring to a walkout of staff at the ministry's Liverpool computer centre, Sir Douglas writes in Volume 1 of the *Appropriation Accounts 1978-79*: "In these unprecedented circumstances the ministry's overriding objective was to safeguard the continuing provision of industrial productive capacity and so maintain the supply of equipment which they considered would have been put at risk if there had been any serious disruption in the flow of money to the suppliers."

"They therefore made special arrangements for a few senior staff with financial, contractual or accounting experience to authorize and advance payments to contractors from March until the introduction of normal payment processes from May onwards had, by late July, removed the need for special payment procedures."

Coroner's warning about guards for open fires

A warning of the "absolute necessity for open fires to be guarded by a closely fitting, small mesh spark guard" was given by Colonel Kenneth T. Astur, the Gwent coroner, at the inquest yesterday on four children who died in a fire at their home in Risca, Gwent, on January 11.

Verdicts of accidental death were recorded on Nigel Hall, aged six, Derek, aged five, Anna Maria, aged four, and Diana, aged one.

They were found by firemen dead in their bedroom at Farthing Close, Risca. A post-mortem examination showed that they died from carbon monoxide poisoning after inhaling fumes from a fire.

Mrs Rosemary Hall, their

mother, was alone in the house with the children at the time. Her husband, Mr David Hall, a long-distance coach driver, was in Liverpool.

Mr Hall said she woke to find thick smoke coming up the stairs. The living room was ablaze. "I panicked and ran to a neighbour's house as the first thing I thought of was to ring the fire brigade," she said.

Colonel Treasure said: "Mrs Hall says she panicked. In my view, she did not panic but did the instinctive thing and that was to get help. I do not want her to sit here with me with any fear of 'what'."

He said that although the living room fire was guarded, the mesh of the guard was not small enough to prevent a spark flying out.

Raising level of lake 'would mean greater flood risk'

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

More land would be inundated during floods if the men to raise the level of Derdale Water, Cumbria, goes ahead, the "two lakes" inquiry Whitehaven was told yesterday.

The embankments and dikes could be affected by the worst effect would be like delta and or Mire where a strip 30-metres wide would be flooded. Mr Gillepie, the North Water Authority's land-

Waste denied by London Transport chairman

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

Mr Ralph Bennett, chairman of London Transport, yesterday denied allegations of waste and extravagance made by Mr Leslie Chapman, a fellow board member in a confidential report in December.

He referred to six weeks of "trial by headline" in his statement, made several hours before receiving the report on Mr Chapman's allegations from London Transport's auditor.

The GLC's London Council, which received a copy of the 100-page document in the afternoon, said it would not comment until the report had been studied.

Mr Bennett made his earlier statement, he said, because the GLC had asked him for explanations of Mr Chapman's allegations that weakness and by destroying the charities will deny women in many areas access to legal abortion, the letter says.

"Septic abortion, which caused so much illness and suffering, has been greatly reduced by the 1967 Act," he said.

"Because of the Bill's restrictive nature there is a real danger that if Mr Corrie's Bill is passed by Parliament septic abortion could become a scourge in this country once again," it says.



Photograph by David Jones
Lord Snowdon, chairman of the working party on integrating the disabled, talking to Mr Derek Child, who is blind.

Snowdon call to help the disabled

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

A plea for an "affirmative action" programme to help disabled people to find employment was made in London yesterday.

Mr Colin Low, president of the National Federation of the Blind and a lecturer in law at Leeds University, said similar programmes existed in the United States.

Mr Bennett said his office was 900 sq ft because it was built that way fifty years ago, and partitioning or reconstruction in a grade one listed building would lead to allegations of architectural vandalism. It fulfilled a regular additional role as a boardroom.

employers to change either the entry qualifications or the nature of the job.

Mr Low was speaking at a press conference to launch the second report of the Snowdon working party on integrating the disabled, which publishes evidence from more than 200 disabled people and 180 organizations. Lord Snowdon, who is chairman of the working party set up in 1974 by the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, said his priorities were work and mobility for the disabled.

"We are aiming to some extent." The barriers arise when people can no longer cope with their handicap. Suddenly they are set apart and made to feel an exception and even, perhaps, a nuisance," he said.

Disabled people must have the opportunity to work like everyone else, he said. They must also have the opportunity to enjoy life.

Integrating the Disabled. Evidence to the Snowdon Working Party on the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, Vincent House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2PN, £2.50.

Home Office ordered to disclose documents

By a Staff Reporter

The Home Office has been ordered to disclose five secret documents to a prisoner suing for false imprisonment over his detention in a control unit at Wakefield Prison in 1974.

Mr Michael Williams claims that his detention was unlawful because the unit's regime specified that prisoners should be held in isolation for 90 days, while the prison rules state that no prisoner can be held in isolation for more than a month without a review.

Mr Justice McNeill ruled in the High Court that documents to the point of certainty the view which I had reached that, as a matter of reasonable probability, the documents were likely to contain material supportive of the plaintiff's case.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had refused to release them on the ground that their production would be "injurious to the public interest".

He said they were communicated between ministers and to or from ministers on the formulation of policy on control units, and records of meetings on the subject attended by ministers.

He thought they should not be published because of the need for freedom of expression between ministers and the need for full and uninhibited advice from officials to ministers.

Mr Justice McNeill said that as Justice he was "that limited right of personal freedom protected by the Prison Act and the rules thereunder which is preserved for a prisoner".

The judgment, which was

given in the Queen's Bench Division on Tuesday, was published yesterday.

Mr Justice McNeill said the plaintiff should not be barred from a fair trial on all the relevant material unless the public interest immunity prevailed.

He went on: "I was shown a document, one of the documents for which immunity was sought but which came into the possession of the plaintiff's solicitor . . . In my view it is reasonable to assume that, as a matter of reasonable probability, the documents were likely to contain material supportive of the plaintiff's case."

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The judgment, which was

Juvenile and adult crime keep in step

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Although the Government is committed to making proposals this year to reform the much criticized Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, a report today says there is no evidence that it has affected juvenile offences.

The report, *Some Facts about Juvenile Crime*, comes from New Approaches to Juvenile Crime, a body supported by eight organizations concerned with young offenders.

It says the relationship between juvenile and adult crime rates has remained fairly constant over the last decade. Juvenile offenders generally comprise about 30 per cent of all offenders in England and Wales.

The rate of crimes committed by boys peaked in 1974 and since then has fallen in three of the past four years.

Seven per cent of those aged between 14 and 17 found guilty of or cautioned for indictable offences in 1978 were involved in violence against the person, sexual offence or robbery. The majority of juvenile offenders in the same year were involved in theft or handling stolen goods, the report says.

The Home Office is obsessively secret about its activities, so it is normally difficult to get them into discussion. The court heard that the "judgment was that limited right of personal freedom protected by the Prison Act and the rules thereunder which is preserved for a prisoner".

It is not fair for a prisoner to have to sue the Home Office with both hands tied behind his back."

The chairman of New Approaches to Juvenile Crime is Lady Fairthorne and the organizations backing it are: The Association of Directors of Social Services, British Association of Social Workers, Conference of Chief Probation Officers, National Association for Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders, National Association of Probation Officers, National Council of Social Service, National Council of Voluntary Childcare Organisations and National Youth Bureau.

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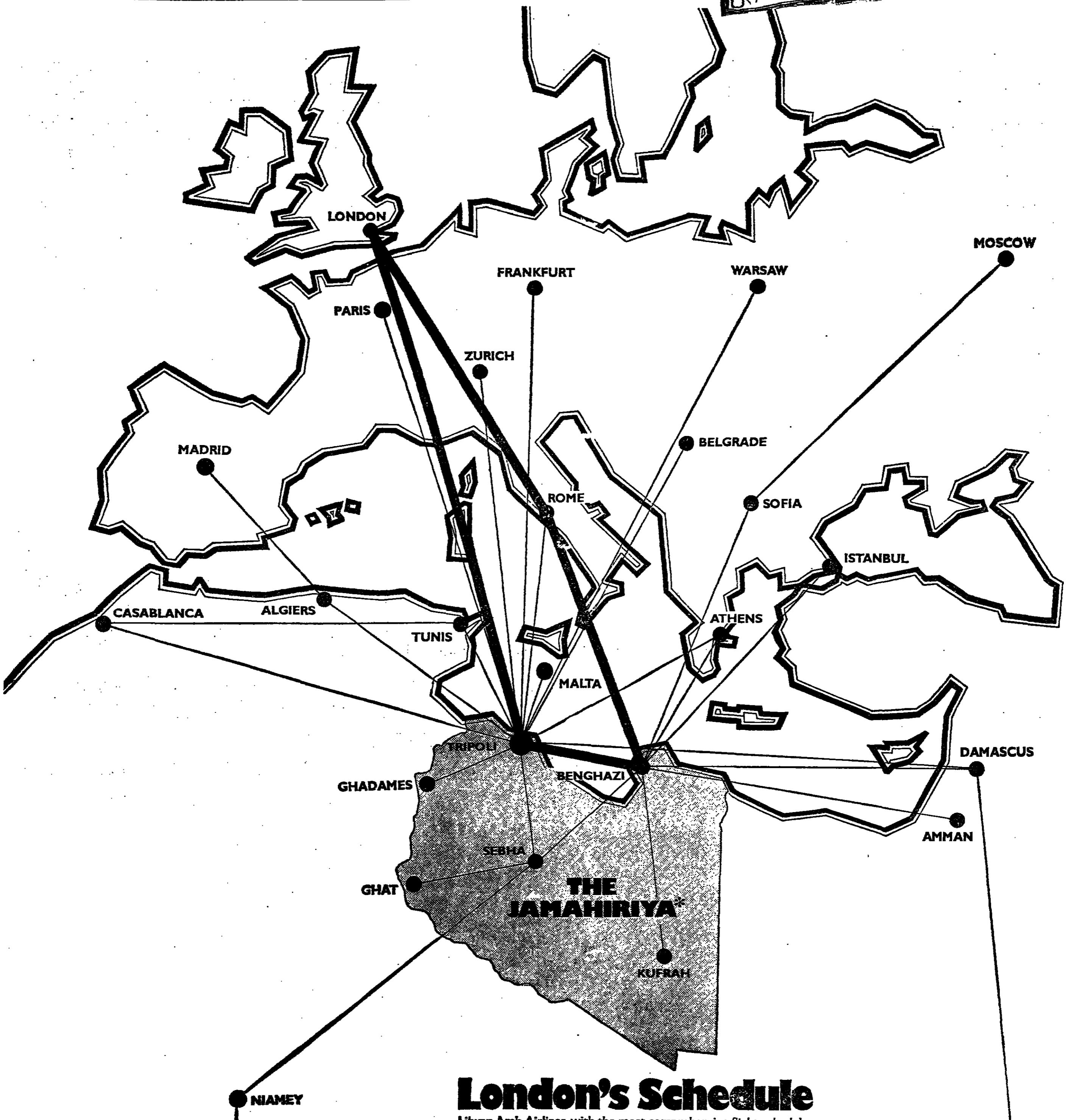
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WEST EUROPE

Synod document obliges Dutch bishops to restore traditional methods of seminary training

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 31

The Pope today signed the document disciplining the Dutch Church at the closing of the special synod and appealed to Dutch Catholics to support what their bishops had agreed to accept.

He reiterated the importance of this synod for the whole Roman Catholic Church. Their work, he told the members of the synod during a concelebrated Mass in the Sistine Chapel, had been of service to "the Church of Christ in all its universality".

It might also be seen as a model of how the Pope envisages the application of the Second Vatican Council. The synod he convened out had constantly had to measure the experience of the Dutch Church against the decisions made by the bishops of the whole world at the Vatican Council.

The bishops signed the final document at a brief meeting this morning. They had already voted for it by secret ballot. It consists of 22 typewritten pages and firmly binds the Dutch hierarchy to apply the Church's teachings on such questions as priestly celibacy, the permanency of the priesthood, the distinction between the functions of priests, deacons and lay people, and a return to more traditional methods of seminary training.

It imposes official thinking on ecumenism: "Intercommunication with separated brothers is not the response to the appeal of Christ for perfect unity", it says.

The document also implies that Rome may have been in some way at fault in the Dutch dispute. It was agreed that collaboration and mutual confidence could be reinforced by complete and periodic exchange of information, by visits of the bishops to the Vatican Curia and of representatives of the Curia to The Netherlands. This would bring about a closer union between the Catholic community of The Netherlands and the Universal Church.

The bishops asked that information or accusations sent

behind their backs to the Curia should be verified through consultation with the bishop concerned or the Episcopal Conference.

The synod establishes three special commissions of Dutch bishops to consider the questions of training candidates for the priesthood, the work of lay people in pastoral activities and the Vatican's proposal for increasing the number of bishops in Holland.

A fourth commission will have a supervisory function over the whole application of the synod's decisions. Its three members will be: the French Cardinal Garrone, who has just retired from the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education; Cardinal Willebrands, the Dutch Primate, and the Bishop of 's-Hertogenbosch, Mgr. Johannes Bluyssen.

The document is en banc in dealing with the more extreme groups in the Dutch Church, which are said to have had too big an influence on the life of the Church. Both progressive and conservative groups are mentioned.

The bishops are called on to play a moderating role in their dealings with these groups, but not to omit to point out errors of faith or discipline so that there could be true communion.

While accepting that there is a certain diversity in expressing the faith and doctrine, whether through the mass media or publications, the bishops should watch that such diversity does not give rise to confusion among the faithful. The bishops are to provide for a sufficient distribution of the teachings of the Vatican Council and of documents published by the Holy See.

The only bishop mentioned by name in the document (except the members of the supervisory commission) is the conservative Bishop of Roermond, Mgr. Johannes Giesen. He is said to have agreed to resume collaboration with the other bishops in three of the five ecclesiastical institutions from which he had withdrawn his support. The other bishops undertook to try to help him in his difficulties.

It was the Vatican's insistence on nominating him that caused much of the trouble inside the Dutch Church.

The Pope in his homily reaffirmed "our agreement on the content of the Catholic faith according to the teaching of the Church's magisterium". They had drawn their conclusions from that, he went on, about the function of the bishop as teacher of the faith and as pastor, the function of each bishop in his diocese and of all the bishops in the framework of the Episcopal Conference.

The Pope's approach from the beginning of the synod was to start from first principles, and the tactic explains much of his overwhelming success in sending the bishops home with a very stern document indeed by Dutch standards.

He devoted a great deal of his time to listening to the bishops and to the members of the Curia whom he had appointed to take part in the synod, but his own direct contribution appears to have been greater than was at first thought to be the case.

At first he was said to be following the proceedings without commenting so that he would not influence their course. He was in touch with the joint chairman and the secretaries.

According to the Dutch side, he began to speak on his own account as the synod advanced but it was agreed that this should be kept secret. The outcome of the synod was described on the Dutch side, in these terms: "traditional doctrine is the winner".

The Pope reminded the bishops in his homily of the need for great courage and great prudence in order to serve the Church. He called on Dutch Catholics to gather round their bishops in prayer and in action.

He concluded with a call for prayer from all Christian communities in the Netherlands and elsewhere, for the acceptance of the synod's conclusions "in the spirit of faith and with sincere conviction".

Leading article, page 15

EEC puts curbs on butter sales to Russia

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 31

Surplus EEC butter will continue to be sold to the Soviet Union but "in controlled quantities and at realistic prices", Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, told the political affairs committee of the European Parliament here today.

In the fullest statement so far of Commission policy on food trade with the Soviet Union after the events in Afghanistan, Mr Jenkins declined to say what limit would be put on total butter exports to the Soviet Union over the year.

He did give an assurance, however, that "in no case will there be large exports dealt at special prices of the type which happened in 1973". In that year the EEC sold 200,000 tonnes of butter to the Russians at prices less than a fifth of those paid to the Community dairy farmers who produced it.

Under a new control system approved by the Commission yesterday, renders for export of surplus butter to the Soviet Union will be considered on a case by case basis and rejected if a reasonable price is not offered. (EEC prices are at present about four times as high as those on the world market.)

Except in the case of very small quantities, no export subsidies will be paid out of Community funds to finance butter sales to the Soviet Union, whereas these subsidies will be available for sales to other destinations.

In general, Mr Jenkins told the Euro-MPs, "our agricultural exports to the Soviet Union will not exceed what we judge to be traditional quantities". But he argued that trade patterns were too erratic to make it "useful to pick out a figure for a particular year, or an average figure for a period of years, and to say it represents the traditional level or target to which we should adhere".

In the case of butter, Mr Jenkins disclosed, 2,000 tonnes were exported to the Soviet Union in 1974, none in 1975 and 1976, 49,000 tonnes in 1977, 21,000 tonnes in 1978 and an estimated 140,000 tonnes in 1979. This last figure is much higher than previous estimates.

The special public meeting of the political affairs committee was called to discuss "the political consequences of the situation in Afghanistan" for the European Community. It generated much rhetoric about the quality of Soviet behaviour, but little agreement about how the EEC should respond.

For the Socialists, Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, said nothing useful to be gained by "punishing" the Soviet Union and "sending the men in the Kremlin to Coventry". On the contrary, every effort must be made to maintain the momentum of détente.

For the Conservative group, Mr James Scott-Hopkins argued that the West could not simply behave after Afghanistan as if nothing had happened. The Soviet Union had to be brought to understand that "adventures of this kind cannot be tolerated" if détente was to be lasting.

Speaking for the Liberals, Mr Cornelis Berkhouten, from Holland, thought the most effective sanction was to move the Olympic Games from Moscow.

There was little comradeship between the French and Italian Communist representatives. The Italian diagnosed a "pathological cancer" at the heart of the Soviet system immune to tolerance and reason, while the Frenchman defended the Soviet action in Afghanistan as fraternal help for an ally against imperialist threats.

The committee said it was precisely those figures who had recently supported the

OVERSEAS



A broad smile offered by one Soviet soldier passing in convoy through a street in Kabul.

Moscow 'ignored five American warnings'

Washington, Jan 31.—The

United States warned the Kremlin at least five times before Christmas that a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan would set off a serious reaction in Washington, a high-ranking State Department official said here yesterday.

In general, Mr Jenkins told the Euro-MPs, "our agricultural exports to the Soviet Union will not exceed what we judge to be traditional quantities".

Mr Marshall Shulman, special adviser to the Secretary of State on Soviet Affairs, said that by ignoring the American warnings Moscow had underestimated the United States reaction and had made a gross miscalculation.

Testifying before the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee, Mr Shulman said Moscow had been unequivocally informed that Soviet-American relations would inevitably deteriorate if there was a move into Afghanistan.

In the months immediately preceding the post-Christmas Soviet drive, Mr Shulman said, Washington monitored unusual activity in the Soviet Union including the call-up of reservists and the transfer of some Army staff headquarters towards the Afghan frontier.

The Administration took all these elements seriously, he testified, and expressed its anxiety to the Soviet leadership at least five times.

The final Soviet thrust was made emotionally, Mr Shulman said, to get a message to the Soviet Union. The message is: they must know that if part of their plan is to move to the Persian Gulf that means war.

Mr Clifford, a former

Defence Secretary, told a press conference: "We have

attempted to get a message to the Soviet Union. The message is: they must know that if part of their plan is to move to the Persian Gulf that means war."

Mr Clifford, who had a 75-

minute meeting with Mrs

Gandhi, said his understanding

was that India did not believe

the United States approach to

the Afghan crisis was the most

effective.

Mrs Gandhi, who said yesterday

the world had moved closer to a thermonuclear confrontational meeting with

Iran, said her understanding

was that India did not believe

the United States approach to

the Afghan crisis was the most

effective.

Troop cuts talks: The shadow

of Afghanistan loomed over the

225th plenary session of the

mutual balanced force reduction

talks in Vienna for

Vienna Correspondents writes.

That the rise in tension

endangered the whole region.

An Indian spokesman said

Mrs Gandhi told Mr Clifford

that an attempt to defuse the

crisis was essential to ensure

a Soviet withdrawal from

Afghanistan.—Reuter.

Schmidt holdup: The visit of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor to Moscow, is unlikely to take place in the near future because of East-West differences over Afghanistan, senior Western diplomatic sources said in Moscow.

Soviet officials had as yet made no formal approach but by obviously postponing a decision on setting a date for the visit had made it clear they did not want it at the present time.—Reuter.

Troop cuts talks: The shadow

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crisis was essential to ensure

a Soviet withdrawal from

Afghanistan.—Reuter.

Envoy tells of plans for Shah's trial

From John Best
Ottawa, Jan 31

Arrangements are being made for an international tribunal to conduct a trial of the Shah of Iran in exchange for the release of the American hostages being held by Muslim students at the United States Embassy in Tehran. Mr Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Iran's Charge d'Affaires in Ottawa, said today.

However, Mr Adeli implied that the plan may be set back because of the weekend episode in which six Americans were smuggled out of Tehran after being secretly sheltered at the Canadian Embassy for nearly three months.

The episode "delayed arrangements for the release of the hostages", Mr Adeli said. He maintained that the United States had agreed to a trial of the Shah for crimes against the Iranian people, and to the extradition of the Shah to Iran if convicted.

"Yes, there are some arrangements for an international tribunal to conduct a trial of the Shah of Iran in exchange for the release of the American hostages being held by Muslim students at the United States Embassy in Tehran. Mr Adeli said.

The United Nations, the Red Cross, Amnesty International and other world organizations, in addition to the American and Iranian Governments, are parties to the planning for the tribunal he said.

He gave no firm indication when the hostages would gain their freedom, but said that would come after the Shah had been tried and convicted.

General Bernard Rogers, the US Supreme Commander in Europe, is trying to work out a formula to satisfy Greek apprehensions that Turkey has territorial designs on Greece, and Turkish fears of a pre-emptive Greek air strike across the Aegean. But this initiative has been moving too sluggishly.

Mr McCloskey suggested today that the United States might be willing to help in ending misgivings. He said: "We share (with the Greeks) the goal of a peaceful settlement of differences between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean."

The Ambassador, after underlining the relationship of the United States with Greece and Turkey as a cornerstone of our European defence, said: "We are willing to work strenuously in helping to resolve the issues." He said: "The parties themselves feel that American participation could help."

The escape has given a boost to the election chances of Mr Joe Clark, the Prime Minister, and his Progressive Conservative Party, which has been bad in results of public opinion surveys. The Government is being given a good deal of credit at home and in the United States for the exploit.

Shortly after his conviction, Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident leader, appealed to the Pope and to world leaders to take up Shchelkov's case and that of his four co-defendants. Dr Sakharov described the sentences as unjust and inhumane.

Izvestia said he had collaborated with the Nazis during the war, and accused him of publishing material slandering the state on illegal printing presses and giving help to "Western centres of psychological warfare"; a term used to denote Western radio stations broadcasting in Russian to the Soviet Union.

Izvestia published a lengthy attack on him, accusing him of exploiting believers to enrich himself. It said money was the only idol he served, and more than 5,500 roubles (\$4,000) were found in his house when he was arrested.

Izvestia said he had collaborated with the Nazis during the war, and accused him of publishing material slandering the state on illegal printing presses

US may give Tunisia military aid

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Jan 31

The United States is considering supplying military assistance to Tunisia. General Bouabaker Balma, the Tunisian chief of staff, is in Washington putting the country's case to American officials.

The State Department limited itself to the comment that urgent discussions were under way, here and in Tunis, in the wake of the terrorist attack on Gafsa. The spokesman would say, where the Americans believed the attack came from, despite the official Tunisian statement that it was mounted from Libya.

Relations between Libya and the United States have been strained since the American Embassy in Tripoli was burned by a mob last month.

The United States would supply Tunisia with a relatively modest amount of defensive weapons, such as helicopters.

Defense moves: The Tunisian Government said today it had decided to call off the military re-integration of Gafsa. No details were given but sources said the move included the placing of some units of the 22,000-strong Tunisian army on alert.—UPI.

Signora Muro states in her testimony that her husband left the house with five leather briefcases. One has not been seen again, and she presumes it remained in the hands of the terrorists. She says that it contained highly confidential documents.

The irony of these latest disclosures is that they have been made public on the eve of what was intended to be the opening of the Christian Democratic Party's national congress, which will be dealing once again with the question of Communist participation in government.

Two Milan newspapers, the *Corriere Della Sera* and *Il Giornale*, publish extracts from what is stated to be testimony given by Signora Muro to the public prosecutor and the investigating judge in June and September, 1978. Part of what appears in these classified

OVERSEAS

Israel agrees to consider proposal for first negotiating on Gaza as way to break Palestinian deadlock

From David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent
Jerusalem, Jan 31

As a way of breaking the deadlock on the issue of Palestinian autonomy, the Israeli Cabinet is to consider a new policy of taking the Gaza autonomy question first, leaving the status of the West Bank to be discussed later.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said today that President Sadat's suggestion about looking at Gaza first would be examined shortly.

Although he said he was confident that full agreement would be reached with the Egyptians on Palestinian autonomy, Mr Begin did not think to minimize the difficulties, and noted that the mayor of Gaza had rejected the idea of taking Gaza first. If the Camp David timetable was not implemented by next May and had to be extended, that would be a pity, not a tragedy, he said.

"Self-determination is not mentioned in the Camp David agreement," Mr Begin said in an interview today. "That is not a coincidence. We don't want to play with words."

The Israeli Government would negotiate autonomy for the Palestinians as laid down in the Camp David agreement, he said. When the proposed administrative council for Judea and Samaria had been elected, the Israeli military government and civilian administration would be withdrawn.

Self-determination meant statehood, and that would be mortal danger for Israel, Mr Begin said. The word did not appear in the Camp David agreement. What did appear was that the Palestinians would participate in determining their own future.

"Yes, there is an agreement. The idea of autonomy is our own. We want to live with the Palestinians in human dignity and in peace. We have a period of time. Let us give it a chance."

Mr Begin added that he hoped Israel was not under American or any other pressure, but if there was pressure they would not accept it.

Mr Begin said he was not suggesting that the United States join Israel's meetings with Egypt to overcome the present difficulties: "We have signed the agreement. We have given a commitment. It can be carried out (in the withdrawal from Sinai)."

"I assume if the President of the United States invited us we would accept. But I don't expect such a trip."

Defending Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, Mr Begin said Israel had "a perfect right to live in this land" and the fact of their doing so helped national security because Israelis living in Judea and Samaria could prevent plans for terrorist activities. Furthermore, it was a positive proof that Jews and Arabs could live together.

"We do not evict any Arab from his village. The land is rocks. It has never been cultivated. No wrong has been done to anybody."

Helicopter link with Paris planned

From Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Philadelphia, Jan 31

British Airways and the Boeing Vertol company are discussing plans here for a helicopter with up to 70 seats which could take passengers from the centre of London to the centres of Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam in two hours.

The present movement of Syrian troops, numbering nearly two divisions, into southern Lebanon, was being closely watched by Israeli forces, he said.

The suggestion by Mr Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, during his recent visit to Syria that Israel was considering an attack was a "complete distortion," Mr Begin said.

"We must be very careful and be on our guard. We do not intend to attack anyone."

New proposals: Intensive negotiations on Palestinian autonomy continued today in private sessions under the chairmanship of Mr Sol Linowitz, president Carter's special Middle East envoy (Christopher Walker writes from Tel Aviv).

A plenary session of ministerial teams from both Israel and Egypt was postponed until tomorrow, apparently at Mr Linowitz's suggestion. Instead, Dr Joseph Burg, the Israeli interior minister, and Mr Mustapha Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister, were talking together and separately to Mr Linowitz.

No details have been released of new American proposals being put forward to break the autonomy deadlock. But, in contrast to previous meetings, both sides have studiously refrained from airing their wide differences on the issue in public.



Mrs Tanya Yankelevich, daughter of the exiled Soviet dissident, Dr Andrei Sakharov, demanding in New York that friends should be allowed to visit her father. With her is her husband, Yefrem.

Dissidents dumped after night raids

By Our Foreign Staff

Czechoslovak police are developing a habit of picking up people for interrogation and then leaving them in remote spots in the middle of the night.

British firms are supposed to supply about £27m worth of equipment for the RAF fleet, but many British tenders have been rejected because they were either too expensive or would take too long to finish.

After two years of negotiation, only £4.5m worth of contracts has been let to Britain.

The Chinooks being bought by British Airways have 44 seats and twice the range of existing helicopters. To convert the helicopter into a 70-seater, Boeing Vertol proposes to add 15ft to the fuselage.

of the underground "Living Room Theatre" in the Prague home of Vlasta Chramostova, a well-known actress banned from the public stage for political reasons.

After interrogation Mr Bartek and Mr Kyncl were driven separately to different points in north-eastern Bohemia about 50 miles from Prague. Mr Bartek, who is in his mid-fifties, was left in light clothing on a freezing night.

In protest he walked the whole way back to Prague, arriving four days later suffering from exposure.

Mr Kyncl is the son of a former radio and television journalist jailed for 20 months in the early 1970s. He has written to The Times saying that he is under severe harassment and is being threatened with expulsion from Czechoslovakia.

"On November 2," he writes, "one week after the show trial of playwright Vaclav Havel and the other human rights activists, state security officers broke into my studio and dark room and seized my entire archive.

"They took thousands of negatives, the result of eight years' hard and costly work.

Turks asked for recall of Russian reporter

From Simon Fisk
Ankara, Jan 31

Turkey asked Moscow last October to recall a Soviet journalist, who had claimed that "Turkey will sooner or later become a communist country," official sources reported in Ankara today.

The Russian was Mr Alexei Yeretichuk, chief correspondent in Ankara. He made the remark at an official dinner to visiting German correspondents, who reproduced it in an article on Turkey which appeared in the magazine *Stern*.

Mr Mustafa Gulcuglu, the Turkish Interior Minister, said in Parliament that Mr Yeretichuk had been "making statements which constituted an act of interference in Turkey's domestic affairs".

Mr Yeretichuk left Turkey in October, but it was not clear whether he was withdrawn by Moscow before or after the Turkish request was made.

"I am going home on leave," he told friends.

The Soviet Embassy in Ankara said today that it had no information concerning Mr Yeretichuk being declared *persona non grata*.

The pro-Peking daily *Agitdruk*, reported that Mr Yeretichuk was now stationed in Laos.

Three-crop oranges

Peking, Jan 31.—Chinese farmers in Yunnan province have bred orange trees that bear fruit three times a year, the New China news agency reports.

Mr Sol Linowitz is latest in line of Middle East troubleshooters**The optimistic man in Egypt-Israel talks**

From Christopher Walker
Tel Aviv, Jan 31

In the midst of the prevailing gloom over the prospects for the deadlocked Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, the one central figure still exuding public optimism about the outcome is Mr Sol Linowitz, the latest in a line of American diplomatic troubleshooters despatched to the Middle East.

Now on his second visit to the region since being appointed last December, Mr Linowitz has quickly established a business-like, unflappable negotiating style that is as much appreciated by the participants as it is unpopular with the travelling entourage of American journalists hungry for drama.

Every inch the urbane and successful New York lawyer, Mr Linowitz has deliberately adopted the low-key approach to the Middle East problem previously associated with Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State. In public he says little that is exceptional, but in the private working sessions, he shows evidence of considerable background work and much patience.

"Sol is a lawyer to his fingertips and that shows in his whole approach to the Middle East," explained one senior American diplomat. "Unlike Henry Kissinger he makes no effort to play on the emotions or fears of the two sides. Instead, he takes the broad issues and works meticulously to break them down into smaller parts on which he might get agreement."

Now aged 67, Mr Linowitz first showed his skills when he helped to build up the massive Xerox Corporation in the 1950s, later becoming chairman of the board. His main diplomatic triumph was to secure the successful negotiation of the Panama Canal treaty after 14 years of frustration and stalemate.

Long associated with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, it was his role as co-negotiator at the canal talks which brought him into the

public eye. Before that he had served as representative on the Organization of American States and was an acknowledged expert on Latin American affairs.

Last year when the colourful Mr Robert Strauss was picked to manage President Carter's election campaign Mr Linowitz agreed to succeed him. His appointment coincided with the public emergence of the wide differences between Egypt and Israel over Palestinian autonomy, an issue central to the success of the Camp David agreements.

Mr Linowitz quickly made a favourable impression and overcame doubts that his being a Jew would cause problems in Cairo. "We liked his appetite for hard work and his refusal to act the showman" said one Egyptian observer today. "But there are some in our delegation who think his approach may be a little amateurish for this part of the world. After all, the Palestinians are rather different from a canal."

Already this week, Mr Linowitz's hand has been seen in the decision to concentrate on private meetings between the heads of the Egyptian and Israeli delegations meeting in a Tel Aviv suburb. His stubborn optimism remains unexplained, but it is seen by American officials as a negotiating style rather than a sign of diplomatic naivety.

Although less than four months are left to the May 25 target date set for agreement on autonomy, the American envoy is expected to stick to his "inch by inch" approach and, if necessary, extend the talks beyond the deadline.

As a strong political ally of President Carter, his present task appears to be to try and prevent any signs of crisis in the delicate Middle East peace process.

For this reason, senior American officials have been told that any new Camp David-style summit to break the autonomy deadlock is imminent, or even under consideration.

Amnesty brands Singapore for torture of detainees

By Our Foreign Staff

An airline advertisement for Singapore "the most surprising tropical island on Earth" put, since the advent of the regime of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, political torture and long-term detention without trial have been used to ensure that there are no surprises on the political front.

Ironically, the arch anti-communist government of South-East Asia can bear most Soviet block nations at their own game when it comes to imprisoning opponents without trial. Singapore's three-star detainees have been in jail for the past 17 years without trial, according to a report on human rights in the island republic just published by Amnesty International.

In an appeal to the Singapore Government, Amnesty called on it to cease detaining people without charge or trial and to stop torture in its detention centres. It also called for the release of three leading political prisoners held since 1963, Mr Ho Piao, Mr Lee Tse Tong and Dr Poh Soo Kai, and the release from exile on an offshore island of Dr Lim Hock Siew. All were members of the opposition Socialist Front.

The report says that the Government has used its extraordinary powers of arbitrary

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OVERSEAS

S Africans suspicious of 'total stranger' appointed to head UN team of 10 in Namibia

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 31

Though Lieutenant-General Prem Chand will be welcome when he arrives in Windhoek next week, there are certain aspects of his appointment as United Nations commander which give rise to suspicion. Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Administrator-General of South-West Africa, said in a broadcast last night.

General Chand, from India, is due to leave New York tomorrow and is expected to visit Angola and Zambia before proceeding to South-West Africa (Namibia) as the head of a team of 10.

Dr Viljoen said that at the end of last year there were two "serious restraints" on the renewed momentum in international negotiations over the territory.

One was the appointment of General Chand as head of the United Nations technical assistance group forces to be sent to South-West Africa, the other by the United Nations General Assembly to recognize Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization) as the sole and authentic representative of the territory's people.

These two "restraints" meant that South Africa would have to be careful and approach

future negotiations with some suspicion. General Chand's predecessor, General Hannes Philipp of Austria, was "a mutually acceptable man". A neutral and objective person in whom South Africans had trust.

"General Chand is a total stranger in our negotiating process, and will, therefore, have to establish his credibility and trustworthiness."

Dr Viljoen also disclosed that the Namibia National Assembly, which is dominated by the multiracial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, has taken control of the total budget for the territory.

The next important step would be the transfer of executive powers to a council of ministers, which could be completed by the middle of the year. The Administrator-General would then exercise his powers with the direction of the council.

Dr Viljoen added that the Assembly's next session would deal with proposed legislation to establish a single integrated public service. Certain Western powers had questioned whether the internal political developments were correct in the light of negotiations for international settlement. "My standpoint is that we cannot delay internal constitutional development with an eye on the international uncertainty."

Threat to Kampuchea relief march

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Jan 31

Fighting now going on in western Kampuchea only five miles from the Thai border probably will stop 200 international celebrities from marching across the border with food and medicine for Kampuchean civilians. Thai military officers said today.

One officer suggested that the outbreak of fighting between Vietnamese troops and Khmer Rouge soldiers resulted from Vietnam's desire to seal the border before the marchers arrive there next Wednesday.

Among those planning to take part are Mr Alexander Ginzburg, the Soviet dissident, Mrs Corretta King, widow of Dr Martin Luther King, Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Streatham, Miss Lil Ullman, the Swedish actress and Miss Joan Baez, the American singer.

They plan to take 20 lorries of relief supplies and a team of doctors across the border. If they are denied entry they will give the food and medicine to Kampuchean and needy Thai villagers on the border.

Both Vietnam and the Heng Samrin Administration in Kampuchea have said the marchers will not be allowed across the frontier. International relief workers say the march could interrupt their deliveries of food across the border to Kampuchean civilians.

Two killed: Two Kampuchean soldiers were killed in a clash with Thai border patrol forces near the eastern Thai frontier village of Non Makmoom yesterday, military sources said. They said the two men opened fire on the Thai troops but there were no Thai casualties.

Non Makmoom is opposite a huge western Kampuchean encampment of about 100,000 people under the control of the non-communist Khmer Serei ('free khmer') guerrillas.

It is not known whether the dead soldiers were Khmer Serei or loyal to the ousted Khmer Rouge regime. Guerrillas of both groups are fighting against Vietnamese-led government forces in western Kampuchea.

In another incident on the border yesterday, 10 artillery shells fired from Kampuchea fell on Thai territory in an area about 10 miles north of Non Makmoom, the sources said. There were no casualties.

The shells were fired from the Phnom Chat area, scene of fighting between Vietnamese-led troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas yesterday.

A Supreme Command spokesman was quoted in the Bangkok World newspaper yesterday as saying Vietnamese-led forces had seized Khmer Rouge base during the fighting.

Thai army officials along the border told Reuter the fighting was continuing today. They described the Vietnamese-led attack as heavy, but gave no other details.—Reuter.

Hint of Afrikaner backlash inhibits Botha reforms

From Gerald Shaw
Cape Town, Jan 31

The South African Parliament opens tomorrow for its 1980 session amid signs that the reformist Botha administration is running into an anti-reform backlash among some Afrikaner nationalists who could reduce the pace of change in the country.

Tomorrow's address to Parliament by the State President is unlikely to contain plans for far-reaching legislative change in any of the cornerstone statutes of the apartheid system.

Reform of the apartheid structure will proceed for the most part by way of administrative permit and exemption, so that change can be kept under tight control and even halted if the backlash in particular areas becomes too fierce for the Government's political comfort.

This system is operating, for example, in the restaurant trade, where proprietors are being told to apply for exemption from the provisions of the Group Areas Act, if they wish to serve all races.

It is unlikely that reform will go much further this session than steps on these lines—and also measures to improve the quality of life in the black townships, to improve education and job opportunities for blacks and implement cautious trade union reforms.

There are signs that conservative Nationalists, particularly the miners and the farmers, are challenging the principles of apartheid.

Poles stop work over transfer of strike organizer

Gdansk, Jan 31.—About 100 Polish shipyard workers stopped work for four hours today to protest against the dismissal of a woman who helped organize big strikes in Gdansk in 1970, a dissident group said.

The Self-Defence Committee (Kor) said that the 100 workers, a small minority of yard employees, had threatened to strike again tomorrow unless Mrs Anna Walentynowicz was reinstated.

Mrs Walentynowicz, a member of the self-styled Baltic Coast free trades union movement, has been transferred to a job outside the shipyard where she has worked for 20 years, the committee said.

Management at the yard gave a verbal promise to re-employ Mrs Walentynowicz after today's stoppage, but the workers demanded a written promise before agreeing to take no further action, the dissident group added.

Mrs Walentynowicz was one of the workers' delegates who met Mr Edward Gierek, the Communist leader, to express grievances after the strikes and riots in Gdansk in December 1970, in which at least 50 people were killed.—Reuter.

gramme. The National Government, with Mr P. W. Botha as Prime Minister, is split into Cape and Transvaal factions, with most Transvaal MPs adamantly that blacks shall never be given political rights in the central government.

The strategy of the Cape-based Mr Botha will be to put off binding decisions on constitutional change, in the hope that improved attitudes will in due course make it easier for his government to be more liberal and, ultimately perhaps, introduce some form of political representation for urban blacks.

In the interim, Mr Botha appears anxious to consolidate the tribal areas and to persuade as many of the tribal groupings as possible to accept independence in these rural mini-states—a move which deprives the ethnic group of its South African citizenship.

Three of these tribal areas have already become politically independent but remain economically dependents on South Africa, but the Zulus, under Chief Gatscha Buthelezi, probably represent the views of most blacks in insisting upon one South African nation, with one citizenship, and full rights for blacks.

At this stage, Mr Botha remains committed to the traditional framework of "separate development" as established by the late Dr Verwoerd.

But an unprecedented debate is in full swing in nationalist academic circles directly challenging the principles of apartheid.

Mr Peng Zhen is now a Poliburo member after having been in disgrace for more than 10 years.

One of the paper's deputy editors-in-chief, Mr Gu Xing, said he wanted to make it "colourful and rich in content" so as to match up to its fore-runner.

"We plan to publish half a million copies a day," Mr Gu Xing said. "The old Peking Evening News had approximately 300,000 subscribers, roughly divided half and half between Peking and elsewhere in China."

At present the capital has no evening paper, although two or three have been revived in the provinces.

Billion Chinese: China's population has surpassed the 1,000 million mark and could increase to 2,000 million more by the year 2,000. Mr Kang Shien, Deputy Prime Minister, said in Peking.

His statement, made to a visiting Norwegian delegation, dispelled some doubt which arose a few weeks ago when the figure was first mentioned by the People's Daily, the official party organ.—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Blacks say white liberals 'lethal as snakes'

From Eric Marsden
Cape Town, Jan 31

Most literate urban blacks in South Africa reject the idea of using violence as a means of achieving change, according to a report released here. They also regard white South Africans as cold and unfriendly and do not want to mix with them: distrust of homeland leaders and white "liberals" and hint that the potential leaders of the blacks are in detention or out of the country—but without naming them.

Dr Viljoen's forthright comments, which can be taken to have the full support of the South African Government, are another danger sign on the rocky road to Namibian independence.

They reflect fears that the replacement of General Philipp, who had spent many hours in detailed consultation with the South African Army commander in South-West Africa, General Gelenhuus, may result in a loss of pressure by the Third World majority in the United Nations General Assembly, led by the African front-line states.

The report is by Professor John Simpson, Director of the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, on research into attitudes of literate urban blacks towards South Africa's socio-economic system. It says that "only a few" of those questioned felt that violence was the only way to bring results. Others thought the use of violence was futile.

Surprisingly, while seeking equality with whites, the literate blacks generally opposed total integration, saying they did not want to live or mix with whites. Professor Simpson's report concluded: "We should live like them, not with them." "We don't like them, we are bitter about the way they treat us."

Many described English-speaking whites as particularly insincere, while those speaking Afrikaans were more overtly hostile to blacks. The whites were described as essentially cold, even to their fellow whites; blacks perceived "a lack of friendliness and laughter".

No black leader enjoys wide support, the report suggests, though the responses indicate a belief that potential leaders are in detention or out of the country. Support for them, however, seems symbolic based on the fact that they were suppressed rather than on their views. There is a yearning for a "messianic figure" who would lead blacks to freedom, the report says.

Homeland leaders were rejected across the board. This includes Chief Gatscha Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, except for some questioned in Durban. There was no interest in white political parties, but many blacks preferred the ruling National Party to the liberal Opposition parties because "they are not hypocrites". One replied: "There is nothing more lethal than a white liberal. They are as lethal as snakes. Why should a white man be interested in the welfare of a black man?"

Deep suspicion was expressed about promises of change in South Africa. Even where proof was offered, there was still suspicion of the motives of the whites. "Blacks see that the major change which must occur so they can progress is in the area of education. They want education on the level way which they believe white education to be."

There was a demand for an end of the system of separate black education, which was seen as being kept at an artificially low level to keep blacks in an inferior position.

Banned Peking paper is back after 14 years

Peking, Jan 31.—The Peking Evening News, one of the mouthpieces of the anti-Maoist opposition banned during the Cultural Revolution, is to reappear on February 15, the New China news agency said today.

The daily was banned on July 21, 1966, for having published a series of articles entitled "Evening chats at Yan'an" which allowed literary figures opposed to Chairman Mao to express their views. It was rehabilitated last year.

It was very popular for its relaxed and sometimes irreverent style.

Management at the yard gave a verbal promise to re-employ Mrs Walentynowicz after today's stoppage, but the workers demanded a written promise before agreeing to take no further action, the dissident group added.

Management at the yard gave a verbal promise to re-employ Mrs Walentynowicz after today's stoppage, but the workers demanded a written promise before agreeing to take no further action, the dissident group added.

The news agency said today that the accusations made against Deng Tuo were part of the "conspiracy of Lin Biao, (former Defence Minister) and Jiang Qing, (Mao's widow), to overthrow the Peking municipal party committee headed by Peng Zhen".

Men who run their business well-beat that business in the literal sense or, say, an academic institution—do it by keeping their lines open to as many sides as possible. It is the very devil, one of them observed to me, to deal with trouble in some district where there are too many armed and bickering factions. If there are n of them, you have to make at least n phone calls to sort it out.

If, on the other hand, your problem is located in some district which is well and truly the fief of one group or patron only, you can come to terms and clear up the matter quickly, by ringing up the one right number, if you know what it is.

At a micro-level, the desirability of

single and unambiguous sovereignty is

recognized. For instance, I was assured

FOREIGN REPORT

A country where the communities have usurped role of the state

How the system manages to go on functioning in war-torn Lebanon



Central Beirut at the height of the fighting: shattered buildings and rubble-strewn streets.

How is Lebanon possible? If the putative state is simply a political post office, bit of negotiating machinery between autonomous, well-armed and organized sub-communities, then the wider society cannot really function. If, in defiance of all logic, it nevertheless does function, we have a mystery. Lebanon seems unique. Or is it?

Of course, no doubt it does not work as well as once it did and as it could. When you compliment the citizens of Beirut on the astonishing activity and bustle of their city (parking is at least as difficult as in London, and your chances of meeting your death through carelessness driving must be considerably greater than from a Kalashnikov), they always say: "Ah, but you should have seen it before the civil war."

No doubt the activity then was much greater still, the pursuit of profit and pleasure more vigorous, and it could then flow over into the devastated central areas—some luxury, some squalor—which are now muted and partly abandoned.

A local form of industrial action—legitimate intimidation as you might say. Intercommunal violence may be the pursuit of business by other means, or perhaps the other way round. Whichever way it is, it is the persistence and vitality of the other activities which impresses one.

The word "feudalism" is often used by those who speak about Lebanon, but if feudalism it be, it is a strange variety of it: one which blends remarkably with both *laissez faire* and communalism, to produce this implausible, hardly credible but remarkably vigorous mix.

In this respect at any rate, the Lebanese state should please our neo-liberals. It does not have the power to indulge in creeping socialism, and absorb an ever larger proportion of the national income. Whether the possibly multiple taxation or contributions which people have to pay to communal, local or factional organizations collectively add up to more than the burden imposed by a well-centralized modern state would be interesting to know.

I had the opportunity of witnessing a public debate between two prominent Lebanese personalities about the way forward. One preached efficiency, competition, meritocracy, rugged individualism, what you might call bringing the Middle West to the Middle East. The other, sociologically more perceptive, I felt, argued that feudalism, the presence of identifiable communities with recognized leaders with whom one could negotiate, was better than nothing and much better than available alternatives.

In most other societies, anarchy and civil war would in fact generate a Bonapartist reaction. Here, even with the balance radically tipped, the habitual and generally skillful pluralism still seems worth hanging on to and perhaps viable and less frightening than the alternative.

Other Arab states often work on a model in which the state apparatus is in the hands of a special sub-community recruited by a mixture of kin, territorial and patronage principles, such as the Alawites in Syria and the Sabaeans in Tunisia. The Lebanese will get by, just, with the balanced opposition of a number of such networks, each with one finger on the tiller of the ship of state, when there is one.

Within this system, some places or institutions strain the status of intertribal sanctuary, as of old.

The American University of Beirut continues, and continues to function, a serious university with a very high level and an intellectual life which could well be envied by many institutions located in more peaceful surroundings.

A doctor told me that private hospitals accept casualties without question and that the state pays the costs if they die without making plain their allegiance. The implication seemed to be that if their allegiance is clarified, their communal organizations cover the cost.

In historical perspective, Lebanon seems an eccentric, deviant development of

Victory in fight to save the krill

The conservationists' fight to protect krill, one of the most important natural resources of Antarctica, may have been won even before battle was joined, according to a report on *The Management of the Southern Ocean* by the International Institute for Environment and Development.

The report, produced by the institute under contract to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund, and due to be issued later this month, examines the probable development of krill fishery as an industry and concludes that such an industry is unlikely to be sufficiently profitable to pose any serious threat to the ecology of the region.

Krill, the subject of highly technical and largely secret negotiations among the 13 Antarctic treaty powers during the past few years, is a small shrimp-like crustacean two to three inches long. Its scientific name is *Euphausia superba*, and it is probably the most important single link in the Antarctic food chain, numbering among its direct predators seals, fish, squid, baleen whales, penguins and other seabirds.

According to the report, which was intended as a consultative document for the use of the treaty powers, "many factors will determine the success or failure of the krill

fishery, but . . . a high, sustainable catch rate over the duration of the fishing season is of paramount importance . . .".

The report concludes: "Overall we suggest that any potential operator considering investing in a krill factory would be looking for considerably better returns on his investment than has been indicated for the systems considered by us. This is particularly so when one considers the risk of operating in the Southern Oceans".

The Antarctic is one of the more easily defined ecosystems of the world: the Antarctic convergence, a natural oceanic boundary created by temperature differentials and currents, surrounds the continental land mass and sets off the Southern Oceans as effectively as any artificial barrier.

William Rees-Mogg suggests a solution to the chaos on world currency markets.

How the gold boom could be the key to convertibility

The world currency markets seem eccentric, and the world gold market seems positively mad. People wonder whether there is any rational basis for valuing currencies or gold, or whether one has to accept the market prices as random fluctuations. In fact world currencies are organized in a dangerously unstable system.

There are however two concepts, both derived from Ricardo, which can make sense of these relationships. One is the labour theory of value; the other the control of money supply through a requirement of convertibility. In all states therefore the issue of money ought to be under some check and control; and none seems so proper for that purpose, as that of subjecting the issues of paper money to the obligation of paying their notes either in gold coin or bullion. (David Ricardo, *Principles of Political Economy*, 1817).

Ricardo's labour theory of value is based on the fact that almost all goods require human labour for their production; the wealth of a nation depends, as Adam Smith had already observed, on the productivity of its labour. The purchasing power of a currency is chiefly a power to purchase the fruits of labour productivity. Currencies will therefore have a balanced price relative to each other only when they purchase approximately the same amount of productivity. Work will go where productivity is cheapest; a cheap productive country must gain the trade at the expense of a dear productivity country, and in a floating system that gain must tend to raise the price of the cheap currency and depress that of the dear currency. There is therefore a tendency to equilibrium in productivity purchasing power, but that tendency can be, and at present is, contradicted by other forces.

The Dresdner bank has collected the most recent statistics for national labour costs and productivity, expressed in terms of hourly output value. These show that at recent exchange rates money buys more productivity in Japan than in

America, and much more in America than in Europe. If one calculates an index of productivity purchasing power, a dollar will purchase 100 in the United States, 121.8 in Japan, but only 79.8 in France, 72.8 in Britain and 72.6 in Germany. The pound and the DM are correctly aligned, by this standard, with each other, but are badly out of line with the dollar or the yen. They are much too expensive.

One can see how this works for Britain. American labour costs \$8.89 an hour to employ, and British labour only costs \$5.75, so the ordinary British worker is less well paid than the American, and costs less to employ. Unfortunately, American productivity is 112.5 per cent higher than British: it is more than double. So it takes the British worker two hours and seven and a half minutes to produce as much as an American produces in an hour.

To employ a British worker for two hours seven and a half minutes costs \$12.22, or 37 per cent more than the American cost for the same productivity. This is the result of the pound's exchange rate being well above the productivity purchasing parity level. To bring the cost of British productivity down to the existing American level would require a fall in the sterling exchange rate to \$1.65, and that is on the comparison the right rate for British trade to compete on equal terms.

It is very damaging for the dollar, which is still the most important world currency, to be so much too cheap. The European countries suffer a real competitive disadvantage. In the case of Britain, where we have other industrial handicaps, a premium of 37 per cent on our productivity cost is pushing us towards disindustrialization. Forgetting about our trade union difficulties, there is a straight cost advantage in employing Americans of a decisive kind.

There are two questions which naturally arise. Why is the pound so much overvalued? Why is the dollar so undervalued? The specific cause of the overvaluation of the

	Hourly Labour Costs (\$ Jan 1980 exchange rate)	Productivity (hourly output value) Germany=100	Productivity Purchasing Parity US=100
Germany	12.08	100	72.6
US	8.89	102	100.0
France	8.20	75	79.8
Japan	5.37	75	121.8
UK	5.75	48	72.8
(a) US\$1=DM1.73			
US\$1=Fr 4.0645			
US\$1=Yen239.50			
f1=US2.2650			

Source: Dresdner bank, exchange rate reports. Third column calculated by author.

bound is our very high interest rates, though a more general cause is North Sea oil. High interest rates bring money into Britain and push up the exchange rate; if we are to reduce the overvaluation of sterling we shall have to bring interest rates down. That can only be done by reducing the Government borrowing requirement, which should now be a central aim of the next Budget. Because the Government has to borrow too much it is only possible to control the money supply at penal rates of interest.

The undervaluation of the dollar arises from the surplus of non-convertible dollars held outside the United States. The United States current account is strong and looks like becoming stronger. On capital account the world wants to diversify out of dollars, into other currencies, or into gold. This desire to diversify has pushed the dollar down too far and the gold price up too far.

The problem has been made worse by the increase in the price of oil, which has created a large Opec surplus. The Opec countries do not want to hold more non-convertible dollars. So long as the

dollar is not convertible it has no future reliability as a store of value. The restoration of dollar convertibility, at a fixed rate, into an external standard, would make the dollar acceptable.

Gold has had very stable purchasing power over long periods. If one takes the purchasing power of gold in Britain as 100 in 1661, the year after the Restoration of King Charles II, it was 85 in 1700 and it was 75 in 1900. In recent years as a result of the instability of the non-convertible currencies, gold has at times, as now, gone to a very large premium in terms of its historic purchasing power, but this instability arises out of floating currencies trading against gold as a commodity; no such degree of instability arises when currencies are converted into gold as a monetary standard.

The relative scarcity of gold and of labour has not changed rapidly in the twentieth century. The stock of gold and of population have grown together. In the 1920s and down to 1933, Americans were free to buy gold at \$20.67 an ounce. In January, 1920, average United States male weekly earnings in

manufacturing were \$24; in January, 1930, \$23, or just over. So in the 1920s the gold wage was just over an ounce a week. In America it was then around three quarters of an ounce in Britain; but the pound was also overvalued then. Before the first war the gold wage averaged about half an ounce in Britain—and if it were half an ounce now the gold price would be \$200 an ounce or thereabouts; if the American gold wage were still an ounce the gold price would now be about \$300, or a little less.

In 1974 Americans were again made free to buy gold. On the first day of dealings—January 2nd, 1974—the gold price was \$185 an ounce. In January 1975, the average weekly earnings was \$181; the gold wage had returned to an ounce a week. The gold wage was at approximately that level as recently as last September. Both gold and labour had risen in price in terms of most other commodities, but they had risen together; oil had risen with them.

In December 1979, American weekly earnings were \$235, so at the current price of gold, the gold wage has fallen to less than half an ounce, and has fallen in only four months. I certainly do not expect that devaluation to be permanent, though some premium on gold is natural in a time of inflation and world crisis. The ratios of gold to other commodities, including labour, do have a tendency to reassess themselves, and the premium on gold has now become unrealistically large.

It may on the other hand be a useful exaggeration. The problem of restoring gold convertibility at fixed exchange rates, which has not become the ideal way to reduce world inflation and meet the recycling problem—has historically been that the gold price was too low, that there were inadequate reserves and a painful adjustment would be needed. Now the gold price is actually too high. A full restoration of a gold standard would not require, as in the 1920s or 1920s a fall in prices; on the contrary prices would go on rising for some years.

The problem of restoring a proper valuation to the dollar is the problem of restoring confidence in the dollar as a store of value. That is what people require of a currency held on capital account. The Bretton Woods system made the dollar ultimately convertible into gold; it broke down in the late 1960s because the gold price was held too low, and it became overwhelmingly attractive to buy gold with dollars.

The opposite is now the case. If dollars were convertible into gold at a fixed price, near the present price, the attraction would be to convert gold into dollars, not vice versa. Hoarders would be able to get convertibility plus compound interest by holding dollars. The exaggerated movement of the gold price has restored the two conditions of gold convertibility: adequate world reserves at current prices, and a gold price too high to risk an uncontrollable run into gold. Convertibility would not unfairly benefit the gold producers; it is only when gold is not money that it goes to an exaggerated price as a consequence of non-convertible currencies becoming unacceptable as a store of value.

The mechanism for restoring convertibility should indeed be extended to other currencies. An agreement on fixed rate convertibility—subject to Bretton Woods margins—between the European currencies, the dollar and the yen, with further convertibility into gold, would have a number of notable advantages. It would end the passage by infection of world inflation from one country to another. It would lower interest rates. It would permit a major fixed rate revaluation of the dollar and the yen relative to the European currencies. It would help towards price stabilization, and would greatly reduce the risk of disindustrialization in Britain. What is more, there is no other way in which these highly important objectives can be achieved.

A system of floating rates, tied to nothing, is very damaging and

terrifyingly unstable. It is bad for trade as an earthquake is bad for skating. At present it has given Britain a 37 per cent overvaluation of the currency, a 17 per cent minimum lending rate and a 17 per cent rate of inflation. The combination is quite disastrous. A return to a fixed rate gold system, but with gold at a little above its current market price, is a feasible objective for economic policy.

If successful, it would eliminate the overvaluation of the pound, bring MRP back well below 10 per cent and provide the opportunity to bring the inflation rate well below 10 per cent by the mid 1980s. At \$750, or whatever was chosen, an ounce would be a very high price for gold, so inflation would continue on an artificially expanded gold base, but the high price of gold would also underwrite the liquidity of the system and allow world inflationary expectations to be reduced throughout the 1980s, rather than being halted in an episode of catastrophe.

The conclusions we can reach are these. Floating exchange rates have resulted in high inflation rates, high interest rates, and in the British case, penal overvaluation of our currency. Because gold became undervalued the Bretton Woods system of fixed rates with ultimate convertibility to gold broke down in the 1960s, but the extraordinary boom in the gold price has more than corrected that undervaluation.

Gold is now clearly overvalued, probably by more than 100 per cent on a natural long term price. That makes possible the restoration of a fixed rate, fully convertible, system based on gold. Fixed rates may have to be changed, but they impose some discipline. Such a system will have an excellent historic record for supporting economic growth and maintaining price stability. The choice for Britain is one between inflation, depression, high interest rates and disindustrialization on the one hand, and price stability, trade stability, low interest rates and a competitive currency on the other.

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Something to bear with units of expression (10)

Jubilote *igitur*: this is the golden jubilee of flowers that turn out to be rivers; of points that mean N, S, E, or W; of Au that equals gold. It is the anniversary of the day in which many were discovered to be L, C, D, or M, so that the clue "1,000 in 1,200" requires the answer *Maryebone* (the M in MCC, dumbo).

It is the day of *Erateo* and the *okapi*, invaluable five-letter word beginning and ending with a vowel. All right, a *Manx* pig? Softly I creep up behind a gnarled oak to stalk the elusive *okapi*. And oftentimes have I caught him playing sardines in *look a pit!* I find those clues hidden inside other words the hardest to see, I suppose because, on the principle of the purloined letter, they are staring me in the face.

Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of that daily obstacle course of the wit that has become a national institution, *The Times* crossword puzzle. Number 1 was published on 1 February 1930, having been compiled by a young man called Adrian Bell, who had never solved crossword before, let alone set one. Adrian Bell, the elder statesman of letters and king of crosswords, compiled the golden jubilee puzzle which



Adrian Bell and quill pen: "ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind".

Photograph by David Jones

man's education, rich with classical mythology, Shakespeare, Dickens, and those three tiresome little girls in the well. He assures me that the only clue to his identity as setter is his distaste for clues that chop words up like salami: "It is the ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind, sitting on a tractor harrowing clods, or bicycling. It is a knack, like chess, of looking three moves ahead and avoiding letters that will make your life difficult later on." He is still a perpetually crossword-composer, his eye in a fine frenzy, rolling, putting the fear of *Silenus* into strangers to the lanes around Bellfield.

Not all readers of *The Times* 50 years ago greeted the innovation with rapture (concentrating on river gives pleasure). A high-minded lass wrote from Cheshire: "I am a young woman, but I hate to see a great newspaper pandering to the modern sartre for passing the time in all sorts of stupid ways." But the craze was as compulsive as the (7 letters) sea whose icy current etc. Austen Chamberlain

wrote to *The Times* to proclaim the legend that the Provost of Eton (school to go between two points) timed his boiled egg every morning by the time it took him to solve *The Times* crossword, and he was not a man who liked his egg hard-boiled. P. G. Wodehouse replied that it was "g. and wormwood to a man who has been beating his head on the wall for 20 minutes over a single anagram to read that about the Provost of Eton and the eggs."

Since then more than 15,000 lovely flowers (Exe and Sprue come particularly handy) have passed over the bridge in the bottom left-hand corner of the back page. Things have changed. Clues have become harder and more sophisticated. "Land of Hope and Glory" is no longer acceptable for "Ruritanis": it has been used too often. There may just be mileage left in "Land of Hope and" —"answer "Ickabond" (the glory is departed, natch). The stock of quotations that *Times* readers are expected to know has changed, marginally. It is

possible that the rising generation is not familiar with the (historically questionable?) poem "Nebuchadnezzar, King of the Jews, sold his wife for a pair of shoes", which was the key in the golden age to the clue, "Half the price of Nebuchadnezzar's wife (3, 3)." Edmund Akenhead, the prestigious (in its original and modern sense), and mischievous editor of the crossword for the past 15 years, has made the clues fairer as well as harder. "Heraldic gold between mother and me" (MAORI), which appeared in the first crossword, would no longer pass muster, because the clue contains a reference to the finished word. He is as elusive as the okapi, but will give you some clues about him. He never uses a quotation that he has to look up; he is a member of the Magic Circle; his team of 11 crossword-composers includes a major-general and a woman secretary; he likes clues that slice up a word like salami and those god-damned girls in the well. He justifies the amount of our time he wastes each day by

saying: "After reading the news, usually depressing, you owe yourself a little enjoyment and mental PT".

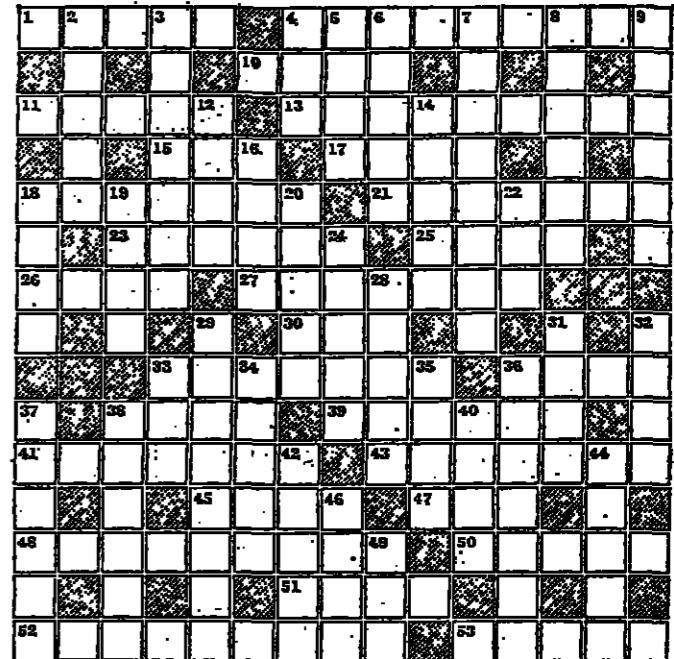
I know, I know: it is a painful waste of time, when I should be reading about the state of the economy. But I do the thing while walking beagles round the park, occasionally bumping into trees and little old ladies, when it would not be possible to read seriously anyway. One day I shall imitate my less frivolous friends, and take up embroidery, socks (warm feet while praying? No, knees) for the vicar, which is a more useful way of passing the time. But until then, lay on Bell and Akenhead, switching on the gentry and the amateur, and damned him that first cries "Hold, enough!"

To be, or not to be, that is the question, (not eight letters, but 11): don't you dare, maestro.

Philip Howard

The Times 50th Anniversary Crosswords is published today by Penguin Books at 85p.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 1



ACROSS

- 1 Spread unevenly
- 4 Part of a Milton title
- 10 A month, nothing more, in Ireland
- 11 He won't settle down
- 12 down should be this
- 13 Colton onto, so to speak
- 15 Head of a chapter
- 18 Denizen of the ultimate ditch
- 21 Frequently under observation
- 23 What's in this stands out
- 25 Flighty word
- 26 If the end of this gets in the way the whole may result
- 27 Refuses (anag)
- 29 This means study
- 31 Simply enormous
- 33 There's a lot in this voice
- 35 This elephant has lost his head
- 37 A turn for the worse
- 39 Done with a coarse file
- 41 Done (anag)
- 43 Red team (anag)
- 45 This rodent's going back
- 47 Makes a plaything with its past
- 48 Wants confidence
- 50 A mixed welcome means getting the bird
- 51 This girl seems to be eating backwards
- 52 The men in the moon
- 53 A pinch of sand will make it dry

DOWN

- 2 SECRET
- 4 Upset this value and get a sharp reproof
- 5 Intently watched
- 6 In some hands the things become trumpets
- 7 A religious service
- 8 This horseman has dropped an h
- 9 Sounds like a curious song
- 12 This ought to be square
- 14 Momentary stoppage
- 16 Written briefly
- 17 Calverley's picturesque scholars carved their names on every one
- 19 Site of 45 across
- 20 Precedes advantage
- 22 Parents in a negative way
- 24 Used to be somewhere in France
- 26 Happen afterwards
- 29 Climbing instinct in man
- 31 A terrestrial glider
- 33 The little devil's on our money
- 34 Simple creature
- 35 Time measurements
- 36 Jollier than 4 across
- 37 Ladies in promising mood
- 38 Presents are commonly this
- 40 Gets the boot
- 42 Hill in Scotland may mean
- 44 Works, but usually plays
- 46 She's dead
- 49 Only a contortionist could do this on a chair

MOSCOW DIARY

Jeans means scenes for the trendies

Jeans have a peculiar fascination for Russian youth. As any tourist here knows, even some young wearing very old and shabby jeans is liable to be approached dozens of times and offered a fistful of roubles. The first requirement of any modish young Russian is to obtain by hook or crook—and usually the latter—a pair of genuine western jeans. They must have the label of the better known makes, and preferably be patched and faded. At any youth theatre, nightclub or party for the well to do, people invariably appear in their smartest clothes: jeans.

The jeans cult has led to a thriving black market. A pair of Levis can fetch anything over 200 roubles, and a complete denim suit costs about 300—almost twice the average monthly wage. Prices increase according to distance from Moscow and Leningrad, the principal sources of supply. And in a society where money has little spending power, jeans are one of the most valuable

Soviet trade organizations for not buying enough denim from those countries producing it, and for doing little research into what people wanted to wear.

Jeans in fact are already produced in Hungary, Poland and East Germany, and since 1975 at least 17 million pairs have been manufactured here each year. The problem is that the fabric of Soviet jeans is so poor that nobody buys them. They lack style and the one item that determines their black-market value: an American label. The Russians, aware of this, have decided to invite an American firm to set up a factory in Moscow to produce millions of pairs of jeans a year. The makers of Lee, Levi and Wrangler jeans have been asked to submit bids for the 7.5 million dollar project.

It said a wave of



DISCIPLINE FOR THE DUTCH

When Pius IX was elected in 1846 all Europe was agog at the spectacle of a liberal Pope. It saw him, before many years had passed, turn into a scourge of liberalism, author of the *Syllabus of Errors* anathematizing the chief characteristics of the modern world, and first subject of the doctrine of papal infallibility defined *de fide*. Pope John Paul II's accession was greeted with no less interest and even wider acclaim. Now faint doubts are stirring that his pontificate may follow a comparable course.

The doubts are that, misjudging some of the strongest secular tendencies of the age to be evil or erroneous because they conflict with traditional norms and teaching, he may throw himself into opposition to them instead of making use of whatever there is in them that is good. By doing so he would, by the force of his position and prestige, lead the Roman Catholic Church into the way of rejection, with the consequent likelihood of schism, defection and loss of influence upon the minds of the great majority of mankind. Such an outcome would be clear contradiction to the Pope's personalism as that has warmed those who have encountered him, however remotely, with his gravity and nobility. But it would not be wholly contradictory of his abstract moral teaching or his statescraft as those have so far revealed themselves.

Nothing has yet happened to compel that fear. Rome's mild chastisement of Fr Küng must be set beside the pleasure that

distinguished theologians take in trailing his coat. The potentially more serious proceedings against Fr Schillebeeckx are incomplete. The Synod of Dutch bishops at Rome, an extraordinary process in itself, ended yesterday on a note of firmness on the side of the Pope, but without laying upon the bishops preeminent demands with which they could not reasonably be expected to comply.

By the mid 1960s the Roman Catholic Church in Holland was in a condition to which the word "crisis" was being freely attached. The spirit of aggiornamento which the Second Vatican Council let out of the bottle had a peculiarly intoxicating effect in that church. Democratic structures were adopted. A national pastoral council was set up, similar in composition to the General Synod of the Church of England but without legislative or judicial functions, which resolved in favour of optional celibacy for priests. Seminaries of the old sort were closed and candidates for the priesthood, of whom there were pitifully few, studied like other undergraduates at theological institutes within the universities. Before the publication of the encyclical *Humanæ Vitæ* the Dutch bishops had reached the view that for pastoral purposes it is up to the individual to decide family planning matters for himself in the light of conscience; and when that encyclical came out they did not revise their position. Daring liturgical experiments abounded.

The particular matters of discipline to which the Dutch bishops have been persuaded to subscribe—celibacy of the priesthood, its permanence, seminary training, cessation of intercommunion with "separated churches" . . . are none of them so fundamental as to have provoked refusal. The arch-conservative Bishop of Roermond has been bound over to be of better behaviour. Arrangements have been made for keeping the Dutch church in close touch with the Curia and vice versa, which may possibly be to the benefit of both. It is a strong assertion of Roman primacy, but not a brutal one. Everything now depends on how the Dutch digest it.

RHOADESIA'S HAZARDOUS ELECTION

It is not surprising that after surveying the election prospect in Rhodesia, Mr Ian Smith has told his white friends that they should swing such influence as they have behind Mr Nkomo and Zanu-PF. He would hardly do so if he thought Bishop Muzorewa had any chance of winning most seats, or even coming second. It is significant that he feels he can ask the whites to help a man so many of them detest.

But Mr Smith has shown long ago that he thinks Mr Nkomo would make the best black leader for Zimbabwe—that is for a country in which whites could live tolerably. Mr Smith negotiated for months to bring Mr Nkomo in, before the Kissinger intervention; but he could not carry his party with him on any offer to Mr Nkomo that Mr Nkomo could have sold to his own wing of the Patriotic Front. Mr Smith went to Lusaka in the hope of detaching Mr Nkomo in some way from the Zanu wing of the PF, a scheme that also aborted; and in the end the internal settlement was reached—and a much more far-reaching one under stress of events—with the Bishop, who became the first black prime minister.

Mr Smith never seems to have had much confidence in the

Bishop, and like the British Government, failed to give him the support needed to consolidate his position. He finally lost what confidence remained when the Bishop, under skilled British pressure, abandoned the white safeguards, among so much else that had been agreed as his delegation's policy; but the Bishop was then the leader, he carried his delegation, and Mr Smith proved impotent; he was hoist with his own petard. Bitterness may have entered into his words yesterday, but Mr Smith is fighting realistically the last stages of a long and disastrous rear-guard action. Moreover, it is doubtful if the whites have anything like the powers of persuasion they showed at the previous election which the Bishop won. At the end of the day white influence will be measured by the use they make of the twenty white roll seats in the Assembly.

First reports from the Ceasefire Commission show that the Zanu guerrillas are responsible for most by far of the breaches of the agreement. What this means in terms of electoral persuasion remains to be seen: the Security Council, and Mr Dayal of the Commonwealth Observers' team, seem much more concerned with the UANC auxiliaries, who

are responsible for few. The majority in the Security Council seem to want in this situation to shoot the pianist because of reports that he isn't playing well enough. But as there is no other pianist, what the Council thinks it can achieve is obscure. The South Africans at Beit Bridge have been replaced, and even Mr Mugabe is not demanding a purge at this penultimate moment of South African volunteers now under Lord Soames' command. The Council no doubt counts on a British veto as a preliminary to a general campaign of innuendo. No note, it seems, has been taken in New York of the remarks of those Zanu party dissidents whom Mr Mugabe detained in Mozambique.

Britain's problem is to end up at the close of poll with a general acceptance by all parties that whatever regrettable events may have occurred, honours all round are about even, and that the verdict of the polls will be accepted whatever the count finally shows the electorate's choice to be. By leading the chorus shouting "soil" at every juncture, the UN mischievous will only make that outcome harder to realize, and the risk of condemning Zimbabwe to more civil war the greater. This is utterly irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HARTLEY,
53 Belmont Road,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.

ARE THE SAVINGS THE RIGHT ONES?

January is early in the session to see the guillotines begin to fall in the Commons, as it did on the Education Bill this week. But the Opposition had mounted an energetic filibuster (it took eight committee sittings to get through the first six, relatively uncontroversial clauses, and matters went down hill from there), and the Government is anxious to pass the Bill before the financial year ends, so that education authorities can plan their spending to take advantage of the new economy measures that the Bill will sanction. Since the Rate Support Grant has already been assigned on the assumption that these economies will be made (and they amount to more than two-thirds of all the education cuts that the Government is hoping for) authorities which refuse to cooperate will have to make large savings elsewhere.

The immediate economic motive, which has grown more acute since the Bill was published, has given urgency to a complex measure whose provisions range from parent governors to school milk. Apart from the contentious money-saving proposals, its most important aims are to give modified effect to the Taylor Committee's recommendations for elected parent governors, to give rights of appeal to parents whose children have not been admitted to their preferred school, to simplify procedures for reducing a school's intake and to establish

an assisted places scheme to help children attend independent schools. Some of these changes, the right of appeal, for instance, may go some way to offset the savings made elsewhere in the Bill.

The Government hope that £200m can be saved by relaxing the statutory obligations on education authorities to provide milk and meals for pupils, and to provide free transport for children living more than three miles from school. Instead, authorities will have a wide discretion as to what they provide and what they charge for it—though they will have to provide free food and transport (where necessary) to pupils from families receiving Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement. This level of qualification will reduce by about half the number of children entitled to free meals.

Because these responsibilities are statutory, schools searching for economies have in the past repeatedly had to cut back on libraries and classroom equipment and leave the prunes and custard alone. If cuts have to be found, this is clearly the wrong order of priorities, and the Bill will enable more sensible choices to be made. The case of transport is rather different. Only a minority of children need it, but for them the expense is unavoidable and heavy. The Government has estimated its saving on the assumption

that the average fare will be ten or fifteen pence a trip, but some authorities may charge higher fares reflecting actual costs. Many of the pupils have to ride because their small country schools have been closed down, or because they attend denominational schools. A square meal a day may have no irresistible association with education, but all pupils must come and be taught, and it is not fair to make some of them pay heavily for the privilege.

The assisted places scheme, when fully in operation, will cost about a quarter of what is to be saved on food and transport. It is the most controversial part of the Bill, and many Conservatives share some of their opponents' misgivings about it. All the teachers' unions and heads' associations oppose it. The principle of helping able children receive an education that they could not otherwise hope for in independent schools is not in itself an objectionable one. The direct grant schools successfully played a similar role for many years, and without the catastrophic effects for the comprehensive system alleged against the new scheme. The policy is a party manifesto commitment. But the number of children who would benefit (about 100,000) will inevitably be small in relation to the cost. At a time when such harsh spending cuts are necessary, the scheme should not take precedence over services of wider benefit.

regarding Britain's poor performance at the Paris Exhibition of 1867 comes from a letter from Lyon Playfair to Lord Taunton and published at Lord Granville's request in your column for May 29, 1867. Quotation at greater length would have given a more balanced view:

"Deficient representation is one of the industries might have accounted for this judgment against us, but where we find that out of 90 classes there are scarcely a dozen in which pre-eminence is unhesitatingly awarded to us, this plea must be abandoned. So far as I could gather them by conversation, the one cause upon which there was most unanimity of conviction is that France, Prussia, Austria, Belgium, and Switzerland possess good

systems of industrial education for the masters and managers of factories and workshops, and that England possesses none."

"A second cause was also generally, though not so universally, admitted, that we had suffered from the want of cordiality between the employers of labour and workmen, engendered by the numerous strikes, and more particularly by that rule of many Trades' Unions, that men shall work upon an average ability, without giving free scope to the skill and ability which they may individually possess."

What have we learned?

Yours faithfully,
R. V. JONES,
8 Queens Terrace,
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LAING
make ideas take shape

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

■ Stock markets

FT Index 433.3, down 4.3

FT Gilts 67.27, down 0.42

■ Sterling

\$2.2670, up 50 points

Index 71.8, up 0.1

■ Dollar

Index 85.1, up 0.1

■ Gold

\$650, down \$40

■ Money

3 mth sterling 173-174

3 mth Euro-S 143-144

6 mth Euro-S 141-141

7 mth Euro-S 141-141

8 mth Euro-S 141-141

9 mth Euro-S 141-141

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\$1,500m credits sought by Turkey

A Turkish delegation is to leave Ankara on Saturday for Bonn and Washington for talks with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This follows last week's announcement of the "package of economic measures" to be taken by the conservative minority government.

The aim of the visit is to obtain credits of about \$1,500m (£650m) to help the ailing Turkish economy until the medium-term benefits from the measures are felt in about a year.

The delegation, which will include the governor of the central bank and the head of the treasury, will be led by Mr Korkut Ozal, who devised the measures which herald a more liberal economic policy for Turkey, opening it up to foreign capital in an unprecedented way.

New Hoesch furnace

Estel has given approval to a DM550m (£134m) restructuring plan for its West German subsidiary, Hoesch Hüttenwerke, involving the replacement of three Siemens-Martin open hearth furnaces by a modern continuous cast blast furnace.

German car output

West German car production will fall by as much as 10 per cent in 1980, according to Herr Horst Backmann, president of the automobile industry association. But improved export prospects will soften the effects for German vehicle producers of downturn in the economy.

Norway oil target

Norway's annual production ceiling of 90 million tonnes of oil and gas equivalents remains unchanged in a government White Paper to be submitted in Parliament on February 8, but it is unlikely production in the 1980s will exceed 70 million tonnes.

Toyota changes policy

Toyota, Japan's largest car maker, and its sales arm are considering a reduction in knock-down production of passenger cars in Portugal and Ireland because restrictions on car imports are being relaxed.

Peru loan moves

Peru is to raise about \$1,000m in credits for mining, transport and agricultural projects in the wake of the nation's economic recovery. Señor Javier Silva Rueda, the finance minister, announced.

US budget fears

Fears that President Carter's projected budget deficit of \$16,000m for fiscal 1981 could nearly double to \$30,000m were voiced in the House Budget Committee.

Belgian production up

Belgian industrial production rose by 1.8 per cent in November compared with October, but was down 0.4 per cent on the previous year.

Danish decline

Danish industry is forecasting a decline in the first quarter of 1980 compared with the last quarter of 1979. Employment and incoming orders from home and abroad will fall.

Hoechst raises prices

Hoechst is to raise its European "Hostafon" fluoroplastic prices by between 10 and 15 per cent in February because of increases in raw material and energy costs.

Middle East growth

The Middle East will have the fastest growth in the world this year because of its oil revenue, in contrast to the West which is sliding into recession, according to the Committee for Middle East trade.

GARFORD-LILLEY INDUSTRIES LTD

INTERIM REPORT

The Directors announce the unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September, 1979, as follows:

Half year to 30.9.79	Half year to 30.9.78
£ 2,876,562	£ 2,303,765
Group Profit, before taxation	193,225
Taxation	124,985
Profit, after taxation	115,370
Earnings per share	92.748
	1.75p
	1.41p

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1980, of 0.5p a share (1979—0.175p), absorbing £16,482, payable on 19th March, 1980, to shareholders registered at close of business on 2nd February, 1980. The interim dividend has been increased in order to reduce the disparity between the interim and the final, and does not imply an increase in the total distribution for the full year, which will be considered when the final results are known.

The results for the first half of the current year are encouraging in respect of all activities, and might have pointed to a very satisfactory increase in profits for the full year. However, both the miners and the steelworkers' strikes must have some indirect adverse effect on operations in the second half, and, whilst the Plastics and Woodworking Divisions did well in the period under review, it may not be possible to maintain the same progress because of the unsettled conditions prevailing, particularly in the consumer trade.

Because of these circumstances it would be unwise to forecast how the Group will fare at the end of the financial year, but the Directors hope that, in spite of the many problems, the steady trend of progress of recent years will be maintained.

New chairman tackles problem facing America's largest steel company

US Steel's losses signify turnaround

US Steel, the largest American steel maker, ended 1979 in red ink, the result of the November decision to close all or part of 16 plants and to lose about 13,000 jobs.

The red ink is good news to industry experts who have long argued that US Steel needs to make large economies to restore its operations. The red ink indicates that the re-think is under way, and that Mr William R. Roessch is firmly in control of the steel operations.

Mr Roessch, 54, was a coalmine mechanic and he rose to head two large steel companies before he became president and chief operating officer of US Steel last year. He is overhauling the company's steelmaking operations.

The plant closures are only the most visible part of his plans, which include a redrawing of lines of authority, a softening of the company's bitter resistance to environmental regulations, and emphasis on the quality of steel products rather than on the quantity.

Customers are sceptical that US Steel, which recently has been emphasizing diversification, will commit the resources necessary to improve significantly its steel operations. Many observers believe that Mr Roessch's biggest problem will be overcoming the ingrained attitudes that got US Steel into trouble.

"There's an attitude in the steel industry that says, 'if it worked last year, it will work this year,'" says an industry economist, "and US Steel personalities that attitude.

From 1974 to 1978, when the steel

industry's average return on equity was 10.1 per cent, US Steel's was only 8.6 per cent.

Although US Steel is by far the largest American steelmaker, with more than 20 per cent of the domestic market, its plants are the oldest in the industry and its productivity lags behind the rest of the industry.

Mr Charles Bradford, an analyst at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, calculates that during the five years to 1978 US Steel's employment costs in steel averaged about 40 per cent of steel sales. That is better than America's second largest steelmaker, Bethlehem Steel Corp, which has an average of 42 per cent, but is much worse than the 28 per cent to 34 per cent range of other steelmakers.

The root of US Steel's problems seems to be a long-standing resistance to change. As the economic and political circumstances facing the steel industry have altered over the past 20 years, US Steel has failed to adapt as well as other steelmakers. That is why many observers see Mr Roessch as the key to US Steel's recovery.

He has already changed US Steel's attitude towards environmental regulations. Meeting environmental standards has been the steel industry's biggest problem in the past decade; cleaning up steel mills is technically difficult and expensive. None of the large steelmakers has moved quickly to comply with environmental regulations over the past 10 years, but US Steel's opposition was particularly bitter.

Settling some of the company's differ-

ences with the EPA enabled Mr Roessch to undertake, in the second quarter of 1979, a plant-by-plant study of US Steel's facilities. The result of that study was the November closures.

The move will rid US Steel of unprofitable operations; it will allow the company to make better use of the surviving facilities and to concentrate future capital spending on modernizing plants. US Steel has also abandoned its habit of ignoring foreign technological innovations.

The example of the company's "invent-here" syndrome most often cited by industrialists is the design and construction in the early 1970s of a big blast furnace at US Steel's Gary, Ind., works.

The Japanese steel industry had been building and operating such furnaces for some time, but US Steel apparently sought only minimal advice from the Japanese before designing and building the number 13 blast furnace at Gary.

But last summer, Mr Roessch called in experts from Nippon Kokan KK, one of Japan's largest steelmakers, to look at the furnace and suggest improvements.

After six months of rebuilding that cost nearly \$100m the furnace was restarted. Once it is broken in, US Steel predicts it will produce 7,500 tons of iron a day. The company also signed a contract recently with Sumitomo Metal Industries of Japan that calls for Sumitomo to provide technology to help US Steel's ailing plate and pipe mills in Baytown, Texas.

Douglas R. Sease
AP-DOW JONES

New Govan Shipbuilders production targets

By Peter Hill

New production targets are to be negotiated at Govan Shipbuilders in an attempt to raise productivity and enable the yard to secure new orders.

Senior executives of British Shipbuilders are working on new targets which will be the subject of negotiations with workers. Mr Eric Mackie, the new chairman of Govan Shipbuilders, disclosed yesterday at a press conference that if the company were to achieve its financial targets it would require the full cooperation of the entire labour force.

"I did not come here to close Govan down but to make to Govan work, and I am going to pull out every stop to do that," said Mr Mackie, who was appointed after the unexpected dismissal of Mr Archie Gilchrist, the previous chairman.

The company has two of its Cardiff-class bulk carriers on order and is completing work on six of the ships placed with the yard in the controversial Anglo-Polish shipbuilding deal. All the Polish ships are due to be delivered by May and all are at present on schedule.

Mr Mackie reported that Govan was seeking orders from Hong Kong, Greece and Canada covering a range of ship types from bulk carriers and products carriers to liquefied gas tankers and ferries. The company also plans to bid for engine conversion contracts on the basis that many shipowners with steam turbine vessels are now beginning to consider the possibility of converting propulsion units to diesel power because of rising energy costs.

Meanwhile British shipbuilding expertise is being used to promote the development of shipbuilding in Mexico.

A & P Appledore International, the British shipyard consultancy company, has been appointed lead consultant for the development of a major new shipyard at Veracruz, which is costing \$100m (nearly £45m) and will employ 3,200 workers.

Although the new technology products are novel smuggling items the imagination of the smuggler has been tested in virtually every area of consumer produce. The report lists 230 two-way radio transmitters, 352 flick knives, counterfeit coins, and a number of live animals and birds

Customs and Excise complains of gross understaffing

By Peter Hill

The Customs and Excise is finding it increasingly difficult to fulfil its functions, according to its 70th annual report, published yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Douglas A. Lovelock. The report is unambiguous in emphasizing that "these difficulties will be increased by the Government's decision to reduce expenditure on the Civil Service, which has required a searching examination of all the department's tasks.

The report continues: "This may lead to a reduction in some less-essential tasks and, in particular, it may not be practicable in future to meet all trade requests for new or enhanced facilities which would require additional staff."

The department is in no doubt that its 28,870 employees are grossly understaffed in its traditional areas of smuggling prevention and also in new ones, recently acquired, for example, its responsibility for the collection of VAT.

In the more traditional areas of smuggling the high value of consumer items, particularly stereos, has encouraged a new spate of customs evasion. The report says: "We continue to detect a large number of attempts by private individuals to smuggle a wide variety of goods of which hi-fi equipment, jewelry and fur remain predominant items".

Although the report refers to the period between March 78-79, before the erratic behaviour of VAT—its attraction as a traditional item for the smuggler has not diminished. According to the report there were frequent occurrences of cases involving the smuggling of gold ingots, computer parts, antiques, must, cai instruments, tobacco products and spirits.

Another principal source of revenue was VAT. The report says that under the new regulations for VAT—where the ceiling on turnover was raised from £8,500 to £10,000—14,000 traders were deregistered.

VAT arrears totalled £3,350,991, resulting in 107 prosecutions and 103 convictions.

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Referring to the latest trends to emerge from the CBI's monthly index of pay settlements, he said the average of 13.17 per cent settlements was far too high without adding to production, although the range of settlements covered those between 5.1 per cent and over 20 per cent.

"There is no mileage to be made out of this terrible steel strike, it is costing the BSC £10m a week. The steelworkers



Mr Douglas A. Lovelock: Customs grossly understaffed

CBI chief criticizes 'buy British' campaigns

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Defensive marketing campaigns, similar to British Leyland's recent, launched "Buy British" drive came under fire yesterday from Sir John Greenborough, president of the Confederation of British Industry.

"A lot of people are moving towards buy British campaigns," said Sir John Greenborough, president of the Confederation of British Industry.

Sir John, who was speaking at a luncheon organized by the Anglo-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in London, said there was nothing fundamentally wrong with British business, but he stressed that a fundamental change in attitude was required from the boardroom to the shop floor.

He appealed for an end to reference to the two sides of industry and its replacement by a committed team. Government policies had provided industry with greater freedom where motivation and incentives had become the bywords and industry had to show that anything wrong was capable of change.

However, change would not be a painless experience—as the current strike at the British Steel Corporation illustrated.

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"There is no mileage to be made out of this terrible steel strike, it is costing the BSC £10m a week. The steelworkers

are making a noise for themselves by throwing away this year's pay rises in return for next year's job losses and the longer it continues the more jobs will be lost elsewhere," he said.

Adela Investment doubts reflected on Eurobond market

From Darryl Delamaide

Hamburg, Jan 31

The Deutsche mark Eurobond market reacted today to the announcement from Adela Investment Company of a financial reorganization which will include the cooperation of the creditors.

Adela, which promotes industrial developments in Latin America, has a DM70m Eurobond outstanding with three years to run. A German business newspaper suggested that a default by Adela on the bond could cast a cloud of doubt on Latin American borrowers and the Eurobond market in general.

Dresdner Bank quickly issued a statement today that it had received assurances from Adela that the public bond issues (Adela has a floating rate dollar issue outstanding as well as the Deutsche mark issue) would not be affected by the reorganization. Payment of interest and principal were to follow schedule.

Bond dealers reported the market generally softer on the report and Adela dropped a point to 97.25 (coupon 8 per cent). Most dealers played down the possibility of a more serious reaction but the case points up investor jitters due to oil price rises and political tension.

Dealers generally find it illogical that Adela's troubles should reflect on other South American issues but it remains to be proved that Adela's loan problems lie in bad management and do not indicate a wider-ranging payments problem.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Allied gambles on Scotland

Allied Breweries must seem like a fairy godmother to Vaux Breweries' shareholders. Until yesterday, Vaux had two nagging problems. First, it was a little stretched for cash with short-term borrowings amounting to perhaps £6m out of a total of £15m. Second, its Lorimer operation north of the border was an increasing burden with a pitiful annual return of around £1.5m and was being squeezed by market giants Scottish & Newcastle and Bass.

Both problems have now been solved. The £21m Allied is effectively putting up through yesterday's placing will remove the short-term borrowings and leave cash to spare for Vaux to spend on its strengths as a north country brewer and hotels group.

Not surprisingly the market was unconvinced that the deal is a good one for Allied. Cazenove completed yesterday's placing in under two hours but despite the 7 per cent discount it was not plain-sailing.

Allied's problem in Scotland was similar but worse than that of Vaux. Its Alloa brewery has never come back to full capacity since the long strike of 1977 and with only 7 per cent of the market the Ind Coope subsidiary was facing a similar squeeze from the majors.

The alternative to yesterday's deal may have been withdrawal from Scotland, so perhaps Allied is right in the long-run to take a bold gamble on establishing itself as a third force in Scotland with between 10 and 12 per cent of the market. Meanwhile, by plugging in Vaux's 214 Scottish pubs to distribution from Alloa, the Ind Coope brewery will at least have a chance of reaching full capacity once more.

In the meantime, however, the move has been seen by the market as a further blow to Allied's credibility, following the 17 per cent interim profits fall to £58.6m. The shares slipped back 21p to 74p where the prospective yield is over 9½ per cent.

Vaux shares climbed 15p to 152p, which seems cautious given that even straight investment of the cash could boost profits 25 per cent this year.

Eurocanadian

Manoeuvres by Mr Narby

Just about every pronouncement emanating from Canadian shipping entrepreneur, Mr Frank Narby serves to confuse rather than clarify. So it is with Eurocanadian Shipholding's agreement in principle to sell its 37.6 per cent of Manchester Liners to Canadian National Railways.

On the surface the deal has much to commend it. Mr Narby wanted Manchester Liners in 1976 but Furness Withy, the controlling shareholder, refused to oblige. Thereupon Mr Narby bought into Furness, and got his stake up to 25 per cent. The Monopolies Commission told him to lower this to 10 per cent by December 28, 1979. This seemed to thwart Mr Narby's design of merging ML's North Atlantic container trade with Eurocanadian's.

By selling to Canadian National Mr Narby has ostensibly got out of the impasse of being locked into ML but unable to influence its controlling shareholder. CNR is a big user of ML's services and is a natural partner.

But Furness is still, it seems, on the hook. Mr Narby is known not to want to sell his Furness stake at "acceptable" prices, but the moment he tries to use the stake to win board room representation, the Office of Fair Trading will deprive him of his votes.

Some say that Mr Narby is not finished with Furness. Withy yet. He has shares, up 3p to 244p, yesterday, backed by book assets of 447p. Business is better than in the first half of last year when the group shocked institutional shareholders with a pre-tax profits collapse from £5.7m to £901,000. But without a bid, the shares are dear.

Oil

Valuing BNOC

Rising oil prices have increased the speculative element in energy stocks such as LASMO, Cluff Oil and Aran Energy, to

such an extent that it is difficult, even on the best expectation of finds and reserves, to justify the prices on the basis of underlying assets. Sooner or later this bubble is bound to burst. The small North Sea groups offer tax advantages from exploration and development expenditure to a bidder, and with the Conservative Government determined to get maximum privately owned British interest into the seventh round of licensing, there is every chance of their making a killing on the back of a foreign multinationals.

But the oil market itself is beginning to look very oversold. The last round of price increases by the Gulf States was made against a background of sharply falling spot prices. If the hawkish African producers raise their prices, they could find their buyers calling their bluff and holding off.

For the British Government the question is whether it can get its sale of the British National Oil Corporation's North Sea interests under way while interest in North Sea stocks remains at a peak. Hoare Govett's latest analysis puts the value of BNOC's equity interests (with a very small allowance for exploration acreage) at \$2.5bn, which, if 33 per cent were sold off, would raise just under £700m to reduce the PSBR. That valuation is on the basis of an average 1980 price of \$31 a barrel and a dollar price rise of 10 per cent a year thereafter.

This week that looks a perfectly reasonable assessment, but at the earliest with the legislation that needs passing a sale will do well to be fitted in before the 1981 Budget. By then we could be nearly through the coming short recession, and oil prices may not have softened as some expect, but from the public's view, of course, it will be best to buy when the froth has settled. Over the next decade the BNOC offer should be one of the best opportunities to hedge against currencies and inflation.

Copper

At a six year peak

Base metals, especially copper, are booming in the wake of high precious metal prices. But it is hard to find a rationale for the present hectic market activity. Copper cash wire bars closed last night in London at £1,321 a tonne, and all the indications are that prices could go higher.

It is not the first time that a commodity boom has preceded a recession—the same thing happened in 1973-74. But this time prices are even less justified by fundamentals. Consumption last year was 7.4 million tonnes, while production was 7.1 million tonnes. The difference was met from stocks, which were 126,500 tonnes on the LME at the end of 1979, compared with 373,700 tonnes a year earlier.

But stocks are not particularly low by historical standards, supply and demand this year are expected to be balanced, and recent research suggests that mine capacity will soon be much bigger than previously thought. Above all, the strength of industrial demand is very uncertain.

These basic factors would normally determine the price. Now, however, speculative demand seems to be so powerful as to upset the old assumptions. Earlier precious metal booms have brought base metals up with them, but this time the scale of the operation is far greater. Whether oil revenues are finding their way into copper is almost immaterial. What counts is that buyers in London and New York believe that they are or will.

Some justification for the price may be found in higher defence budgets and talk of the United States economy expanding in the second half. It is also true that copper prices tend to rise in the first six months of a year. Nevertheless, the market does not take these influences seriously, pointing out that the speculation began before President Carter committed himself to re-armament. The only question at the moment is how long speculative pressures can sustain prices at what must be seen as artificial levels.

The price of the eight large power stations being built for the Central Electricity Generating Board has gone up by more than £3,000m since work began. Of this increase, almost half is blamed by the board on delays caused by poor industrial relations, design changes and problems in materials delivery. Inflation accounts for the rest.

The most recent projections put the final cost of the programme at £3,600m at today's prices. The ultimate bill will be further increased by inflation and interest charges during construction which, on one site, continues at least until 1986.

The board acknowledges that the financial burden has become such that early commissioning of the stations now represents the largest single contribution which could be made to containing its overall costs.

Only Drax B, where work began a year ago, is on schedule. The longest delay is at Dungeness B, a nuclear plant, where work began in 1966. Completion was originally due in 1971. It is now expected next year. Over 14 years, its estimated cost has climbed from £58m to £310m.

The accompanying table, provided by the CEBG at the request of *The Times*, indicates the size of the problems caused by the construction industry's lamentable performance on power station sites over the past decade.

This has been highlighted by the latest in a series of disputes at the Isle of Grain site where a long-running strike by a small group of liggers (the men who insulate pipes and boilers) threatens to bring all work to a standstill for the second time in its history. Grain is now expected to be finished four years behind schedule at a final cost of £556m. The original estimate was £209m.

The CEBG says that the problems associated with large construction projects where 10,000 hourly-paid workers are employed, now seem endemic. Construction of chemical complexes has been similarly blighted by the industry's inability to deliver the goods on time and to time. The BP/ICI joint venture Olefines 6 complex on Teesside came on stream last

The soaring cost of building Britain's power stations

PLANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Station	Type	No. of units and design capacity	Year of start	Estimated first cost at work began	Original estimated completion	Present estimated completion
Hydro Plant						
Drax B	coal	6 x 300 MW	1974	£118m	1981	1983
Coal and Oil-Fired Plant						
Grain	oil	5 x 660 MW	1971	£209m	1979	1983
Littlebrook D	oil	3 x 660 MW	1973	£163m	1981	1983
Nuclear						
Dungeness B	Advanced gas-cooled reactor	2 x 660 MW	1966	£89m	1971	1981
Hartlepool	advanced gas-cooled reactor	2 x 660 MW	1966	£92m	1974	1982
Heysham	advanced gas-cooled reactor	2 x 660 MW	1970	£142m	1976	1982

November more than two years behind schedule and, at £520m, twice the original estimate.

The CEBG is, appreliably as it contemplates a future nuclear programme which will involve ordering at least 10 stations in the decade from 1982.

The Government is also concerned because the record on power station construction may be a deterrent to investment in large process plant projects in the United Kingdom. International comparisons carried out by the National Economic Development Office (Nedo) have shown that performance on overseas sites is far better.

The CEBG blames the delays on low labour productivity on site, poor industrial relations and squabbles over leap-frogging pay rates. The diagnosis is undoubtedly accurate but it adds little to a debate on large site performance that has been going on for a decade or more.

This is disclosed that on multi-contractor sites, earnings, conditions and fringe benefits were subject to enormous disparities.

They merely provided the start.

poor record despite the attention given to the happenings on site.

amenities and money devoted to site

management and much ill-feeling.

Despite strenuous efforts on the part of the contractors, nothing has changed.

anything, relations have been

made more difficult, as the

board recognises, by high un-

employment in the construction

industry (which makes workers

reluctant to finish a job), the

trend towards longer holidays,

and unofficial pressure for a

shorter week.

No single party has been

blamed. Workers (and sometimes

their unions) have on occasions

shown bloody-mindedness;

contractors have lacked

the management ability to organize

large and transitory workforces,

and clients—of which the

CEBG is one of the largest

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Light selling gives way to firmer tone after hours

All major sections of the Stock Market ran for cover yesterday as buyers retreated, uncertain in which direction the next move lay.

Jobbers seemed quite content to mark prices lower just in case the gloomy rumours flying around suddenly meant a surge in selling. But in the event selling proved light and by the close prices in both equities and gilts were off the bottom.

Dealing had resumed on a fairly firm note, despite the speech on interest rates by The Chancellor which some had interpreted as being gloomy, and some solid buying had been encountered. This had been on the back of some unconfirmed rumours that the Russians were making plans to pull out of Afghanistan.

As a result, equities and gilts fell back on a broad front accompanied by gold shares and oils as the bullion price tumbled \$40 to \$650 an ounce.

At the longer end of the market in gilts falls of around £1 were not uncommon which was generally the low point of the day. Shorts experienced some good two-way business and by the close were showing about £1 of the bottom with falls of between £1 and £1.

The tone in equities after hours was slightly firmer, al-

though most still showed losses on the day. This was borne out by the FT Index which after opening 3.9 up at 10 am went on to fall 5.4 at 4pm before closing 4.3 off at 453.3.

Rumours of a drug-price war had an unsettling effect on leading industrials which moved easier before making some attempt to rally by the close. Reports that Roche was about to cut its prices prompted 7p fall in Beecham at 124p which in turn left Glaxo 10p lower at 478p. Falls of 2p were noted among ICI at 383p, Unilever at 462p, Fisons at 248p and Reed International at 197p.

Recent comment on the trading statement from Allied

action to being swamped with so much paper resulted in the shares dipping 23p to 74p. This in turn directed attention to Davenport Brewery, a speculative stock of late, 3p up at 153p. But it had an adverse effect elsewhere with Bass Charrington 6p down at 203p.

Among companies reporting, Louis Newmark climbed 1.7p to 250p, after sharply higher interim figures, while a confidential chairman's statement lifted Hill & Smith 8p to 51p.

Recent comment on the trading statement from Allied

Textile provided a 7p fillip at 96p and continued interest among the two fine art dealers left Sotheby Parke-Bernet 15p higher at 485p and Christie International 4p stronger at 175p. Interest also continued in Caffyns following the increased shareholding by BCA-1p easier at 64p—and the shares improved a further 5p to 177p.

News of the sale of its German seat belt interests boosted "W" Ribbons 6p to 30p while speculative demand in a thin market saw Steel Bros rise by 11p to 154p. But profit taking

clipped 15p to 120p in Channel Tunnel.

Foods continued to be a dull spot on continued fears of an imminent price war with Associated Dairies falling 4p to 163p while other to his lower levels included J. Sainsbury 7p to 269p, Kwik Save 3p to 104p and Tesco 1p to 64p. Even Tate & Lyle failed to escape sliding 6p to 165p following its AGM.

Electricals manage to recover some earlier losses as a result of profit taking, with most reporting net gains on the day.

Deca rallied 10p in the ordinary to 390p and 2p in the "A" at 334p, while its stable mate Racial improved 2p to 239p as did GBC at 356p. Ferranti, however, encountered profit taking, after Wednesday's sharp rise, dipping 5p to 467p but among second liners Electromechanics rose 3p to 491p and Unitech advanced 8p to 250p.

Some operators are selling North Sea holes in the sea stocks as hard as possible. Gold and the spot price of oil are softening together, there are huge profits to be taken, and only some holes will be found to have oil at the bottom.

Plantations remained a firm

feature with London Sumatra putting on 10p to 436p as McLeod Russel 21p higher at 340p, announced that it had sold off some of its interests. Elsewhere, lower profits clipped 2p from Warren Plantations at 151p while rationalisation hopes Remba 15p to 80p and Lendis Rubber rose 10p to 91p.

Equity turnover on January 30, was £139,171m (18,252 bar-gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph were, Beecham, Shell, Cons Gold, ICI, Premier Cons, R.A.C., Racial, I.C. Gas, BAT's GEC, Glaxo, Lendis and Westland Aircraft.

Mr N. G. Bassett Smith, chairman of Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings.

still posing a threat, but the group says its container stocks and the position of suppliers Blundell gets two-thirds of its business from Metal Box— suggests no real difficulties until perhaps the end of March.

Last year raw material prices, titanium dioxide is used in 25 per cent of the group's products, rose 25 per cent.

"We are still the cheapest at the factory gate and there is a margin for increasing prices if raw materials go on rising," he said.

The national steel strike was

Business appointments

Westward TV chief on Aston Martin board

Mr Peter Cadbury, executive chairman of Westward Television, has joined the board of Aston Martin.

Mr L. Tyer has been appointed London Actuary of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society. He succeeds Mr S. Newland, who is returning to Edinburgh to administer the group's pensions contracts.

Mr Ken Appleton has been appointed to the new post of director of personnel relations for Pilkington.

Mr J. W. D. Ewart has been made chairman and Mr J. M. Light managing director of Eng. & Card Cisticling after the resignation of Mr S. Rothery from the board.

Mr T. Heier and Mr T. Thompson have been appointed to the board of Hainmer Corporation.

Mr John A. Croft, a non-executive director of H. Brammer & Co. has been made chairman of Brammer Transmissions.

Mr G. A. Freestone has been appointed to the new position of managing director of Mitanco International, in charge of the bank's Asian and Pacific region.

Mr M. J. Wain has been appointed a director of Shell International.

Mr A. G. Cropper has been elected to the board of Lake & Elliot as finance director.

Mr Michael Aldrich has been appointed managing director of Redford Computers.

Miss G. H. Durbin has been appointed financial director of Pennwall.

Mr M. Osborn, director of Harlow Mower, has been elected chairman of the Foreign Exchange and Currency Deposit Brokers' Association; Mr J. H. Gunn, director of Astley & Pearce, deputy chairman; and Mr H. A. Woollard, chairman of Woollard, honorary secretary/treasurer.

Gallaher passes £60m pretax

For the second year running, Gallaher, the British tobacco giant, which is owned by American Brands of the United States, has produced record results. In 1979, Gallaher's pretax profits rose by 24 per cent to £63.2m—the first time the £60m mark has been exceeded.

With the tax charge reduced by £14.1m to £17.6m (because of the write-off of stock appreciation relief), against 1978's £26.2m tax charge, net profits have jumped by 34 per cent to £45.6m. Ordinary dividends are only slightly higher at £24.6m (compared with £21.2m), which means that the year's retained profit has soared to £21.1m—more than six times 1978's £3.4m.

Total sales improved by 6.4 per cent to £1,621.3m. Of this, domestic tobacco sales were up 7 per cent better at £1,098.9m, while foreign tobacco sales were 3.1 per cent greater at £176.4m. All the other divisions—engineering, optical and distribution—showed better sales and profits.

L. Newmark over £1m at half-way

Louis Newmark, the electronic and precision engineer and watch distributor, reports pre-tax profits up by 13 per cent to £14m in the six months to September 29, 1979.

Although the engineering dispute made its mark and reduced profitability in some of the group's divisions, the interim results are better than those for the same period in previous years, said Mr Geoffrey Newmark, chairman. The interim dividend has been increased by 16 per cent to 5p gross.

New capital issues fall to £28m

Statistics compiled by Midland Bank show that the amount of "new money" raised in the United Kingdom in January was £25m, a sum broadly similar to the £32.3m and £32.7m raised in January 1978 and 1977 respectively—but only a quarter of the December total of £106m.

Issued by public bodies accounted for two-thirds of the month's total, in contrast to the generally low level of activity in 1979. Twenty local authori-

Newspaper group figures soar ahead

By Our Financial Staff

A cover price increase and higher advertising rates helped Portsmouth and Sunderland newspapers to sail past last year's total profit in the first nine months of the current period.

Pretax profits in the 39 weeks to December 29, 1979, amounted to £3.1m, over a third up on the previous period's £2.2m while turnover rose from £10.8m to £14m.

As such, pretax margins have widened from 20 to 22 per cent. However, the figures mask an interest credit on the near £4m liquid assets, up almost £1m from the year end figure.

Although the group has no immediate plans for spending the money it is increasing the retailing side of the business.

Costs during the period were contained on the newsprint side thanks to the strength of sterling against the dollar.

Profits were also helped by an increase in the cover price of the newspaper last February and a 17 per cent rise in advertising rates in October. Circulation has also picked up slightly, though it is not running at its previous peak levels.

The group is not yet benefiting from the introduction of new technology which was installed in 1978. However, finance director Mr E. McKissack reports that some progress towards introducing this new form of printing is being made.

The shares at 80p are yielding an historic 7.5 per cent.

the company said it benefited from higher interest income and a lower tax rate. This compared with the 1978 fourth quarter net of £8.2m.

The company said the three operating companies which comprise Westinghouse had higher sales in 1979 compared with the previous year. In addition to a lower tax rate, 1979 results were helped by higher income from marketable securities.

Hachette confident

Librairie Hachette, France's largest book and periodical publisher and distributor, expects to show improved earnings and pay a higher dividend for 1979, with a further improvement this year both in its French and international activities.

The strategy of the past three to four years which involved a profound restructuring of the group including the divestment of a number of unprofitable activities in the periodical, printing and audio-visual sectors plus tighter financial control, are beginning to pay off.

Results for 1979 will be bet-

ter than those of 1978, which should logically lead to a higher dividend payout... and we expect a further improvement this year despite prevailing uncertainties in the (French publishing) trade as a whole," according to director-general, M. Gerard Worms.

He also said the state's money is no longer considered necessary to ensure construction of the \$23bn project.

International

BMW optimistic

Bayreuthen Monorenwerke AG (BMW) the West German car maker, will be reporting good 1979 earnings, but a considerable 1980 outstanding if the company can match 1979 sales and production, BMW according to chairman, Herr Eberhard von Kuenheim.

Herr von Kuenheim said that BMW had worldwide sales of DM7.387bn in 1979, up 12.7 per cent from DM6.557bn in 1978. BMW AG, the parent company, raised sales by 10.1 per cent to DM6.566bn.

Domestic sales totalled DM3.409bn up 9.3 per cent from DM3.119bn in 1978. Export sales rose 11 per cent to

DM3.151bn up from DM2.839bn in 1978.

The company said that it produced 336,981 motor vehicles in 1979, a 5 per cent increase from 320,833 in 1978.

Deliveries totalled 335,132 cars, up by 4.3 per cent from 321,196 cars delivered in 1978.

Hudson Bay hearing

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting company of Canada, whose HB Holdings is making tenders for Rosario Resources Corporation, says that the court hearing on its claim of a conflict between New York take-over law and the Securities and Exchange Commission tender offer rules has been completed.

The company said it agreed to notify everybody who tendered shares to it that they have withdrawal rights until February 5 and that in the view of the SEC no payment for such shares can be made during this withdrawal period.

Hudson Bay also said it expects to deliver additional material requested by the FTC on the bid shortly.

B·A·T Industries

Second Interim Report: Twelve Months to 30 September 1979

Group Results (unaudited)

Twelve Months to: 30.9.79 £ millions Change

Turnover	6,672	6,676	—
Trading profit	446	438	+2%
Investment income	56	61	+8%
Operating profit	502	499	+1%
Interest paid	74	66	+12%
Profit before taxation	428	433	-1%
Taxation	184	189	-3%
Profit after taxation	244	244	—
Minority interest	24	25	-4%
Net profit attributable to B.A.T. Industries Ltd.	220	219	—

Change of Year End

As already announced the Group's year end has been changed to 31 December. This unaudited interim report therefore covers the twelve month period to 30 September 1979 and the next audited accounts will be for the fifteen month period to 31 December 1979.

Dividends

The Directors today decided to pay on 1 April 1980 a third interim dividend out of the profit for the twelve months to 30 September 1979 at the rate of 6.50p per share on the Ordinary Shares together with a special interim dividend at the rate of 5p per share out of the profit for the three months to 31 December 1979 payable on the Ordinary and the Deferred Ordinary Shares.

To maintain the rights of both the Ordinary and the Deferred Ordinary Shareholders the third interim dividend and the special dividend referred to above have been declared in lieu of a final dividend for the fifteen month period to 31 December 1979.

The Deferred Ordinary Share will automatically be converted to Ordinary Shares on 20 June 1980, the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Transfers received in order by the Registrar of the Company up to 29 February 1980 will be in time to be passed for payment of the third and special interim dividends.

The three interim dividends in respect of the twelve months to 30 September 1979 represent an increase of 19.4% over the comparable dividends of the previous year as illustrated below:

Dividends per 25p Ordinary Share	1979	1978	Increase
1st interim dividend paid 2 April 1979	4.84p	4.40p	+10%
2nd interim dividend paid 1 October 1979	6.00p	5.00p	+20%
3rd interim dividend payable 1 April 1980	6.50p	</	

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tobacco group hit by exchange fluctuations

Exchange rate differences had a marked effect on profits and turnover during the year at British American Tobacco, the BAT Industries subsidiary.

Turnover declined from £25,748m to £23,458m and attributable profits from £140m to £106m in the 12 months to September 30, 1979. The currency fluctuations reduced turnover by £267m, pre-tax profits by £21m and net profit attributable to BAT by £12m.

Although cigarette sales continued to increase, profits declined slightly because of lower margins on United Kingdom exports and the high cost of establishing a foothold in the United Kingdom domestic market. Sales and profits improved in Asia and Africa, and the German home improvement subsidiary also made a significant contribution.

Another BAT Industries subsidiary, Wiggins Teape, the papermaker, improved pre-tax profits by 27 per cent to £54.5m and turnover by 11.5 per cent to £51.4m during the same period. The printing and writing sector was particularly successful despite strong competition from imports and losses at the Fort William pulp mill.

A strike at Idem Carbonless Paper in South Wales hit profits severely but the group's continental interests showed substantial increases.



The Rank Hovis MacDougall AGM heard a forecast yesterday from Mr Joseph Rank chairman (pictured on the left) talking to Mr P. W. J. Reynolds, the managing director, that first-half profits would be considerably improved. The year has started well for this flour, foods and bakery group

The group's main wage settlements have been concluded and it has increased the price of bread and flour sufficiently to offset the increase in wheat costs and wages.

In the year to December 1, pre-tax profits improved from £31.1m to £32.6m.

Diamond prices to be increased

By Michael Prest

The Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, will increase the price of rough stones of one carat and more from the next "sight" or sale on February 18. Revenue is expected to go up by about 12 per cent.

The move is a response to speculative buying, particularly from Israel, nearly sent the market out of control, the company has kept a wary eye on any signs of heavy buying beyond normal trading.

The last price increases took effect from the September sight in 1979. The overall rise in revenue was 13 per cent. Officially, prices are never revealed, and are in fact a little

higher than the price quoted.

De Beers is always anxious to maintain its hold on the market. After a scare two years ago when intense speculative buying, particularly from Israel, nearly sent the market out of control, the company has kept a wary eye on any signs of heavy buying beyond normal trading.

The last price increases took effect from the September sight in 1979. The overall rise in revenue was 13 per cent. Officially, prices are never revealed, and are in fact a little

higher than the price quoted.

Simple inflation has also prompted the latest increase. In 1979 De Beers' dollar profits rose by only 1.8 per cent to \$2,585m, against an annual rise of 46 per cent between 1976 and 1978. Expressed in rand, profits fell by 1.2 per cent last year.

The group was considering an issue at the beginning of the month since the market seemed to pick up.

FFI calls a halt to Eurosterling issues

Finance for Industry has effectively declared a closed season on fresh Eurosterling bond issues until it has completed the setting up of an offshore financing vehicle in Holland.

The establishment of an offshore subsidiary follows the United Kingdom Inland Revenue's decision earlier this month requiring British companies making new Eurobond issues from within the United Kingdom to pay interest after Holland.

At the trading level, profits rose by a tenth to £2.4m but pretax they fell from a previous £1.6m to £1.4m on turnover £5.5m higher at £26.9m.

However, the chairman Mr Norman Radsteyer admits that the level of borrowings was the main worry during the year. In the 12-month period they rose from a net £4.1m to almost £5m increasing gearing to some 60 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Borrowings rise at Lonsdale

By Our Financial Staff

An increase in borrowings, and subsequent rise in interest charges, has left printing to office equipment group Lonsdale Universal with a profits shortfall at the year end.

At the trading level, profits rose by a tenth to £2.4m but pretax they fell from a previous £1.6m to £1.4m on turnover £5.5m higher at £26.9m.

However, the chairman Mr Norman Radsteyer admits that the level of borrowings was the main worry during the year. In the 12-month period they rose from a net £4.1m to almost £5m increasing gearing to some 60 per cent of shareholders' funds.

At present Lonsdale is involved in negotiations to sell its six retailing outlets and expects to raise around £1m from the freeholds and leases. This money will be used initially to reduce borrowings back to the £4m level.

The decision to withdraw from the retailing side results from the low profit margins it receives on the cash invested.

Elsewhere the office equipment, stationery and supplies division, the largest in the group, increased its contribution marginally to £1.4m. Profit margins here amount to 8.6 per cent.

The bookselling division,

helped by a first-time contribution from the Australian side, only just bettered last year's profits with a £2.7m total. The Australian side contributed around 60 per cent of the profit and the chairman is expected to announce a further expansion in that country in the annual report and accounts.

A final dividend of 5p gross gives shareholders a total for the year of 7.4p, a rise of a fifth on the previous amount. The shares, which dipped 2p to 58p yesterday, trade at almost 5 times fully taxed earnings and yield 12.7 per cent.

Drought delays tea profits

The drought in India earlier this year, which held back the tea crop, has hit interim profits at Warren Plantations. While the group does not include the profit until the crop is gathered, the surplus will come in the second half instead of the first. As such, pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, fell from a previous £1.7m to £700,000 on

turnover £600,000 higher at £12.3m.

However, the management accounts for the whole of 1979 indicate that profits will be similar to last year's £5.8m despite the strength of the pound, which has reduced results in sterling terms.

The figures include a first-time contribution from specialist paint group Joseph

Mason bought in October 1978 for £2.3m cash. Part of this money came from a £1m medium-term loan from FCI on a 12.5 per cent fixed rate and this is the bulk of the group's borrowings.

The shares, which dipped 2p to 151p yesterday, yield a prospective 8.9 per cent on a forecast total dividend of 13.5p gross.

Reverse takeover by design group

Allied International Designers, a private group which shaped the Leyland Routemaster bus, is making a reverse takeover for shell company United Rubber and Coffee Plantations (URCP) and quoted under the 162 (2) Stock Exchange market.

United Rubber is buying AID for £650,000 with 6.3 million

shares which will mean that shareholders and senior staff of AID will effectively gain control of 71 per cent of United Rubber. Its name will then be changed to Allied International Designers Ltd and quoted under the 162 (2) Stock Exchange market.

AID was co-founded in 1959

by current chairman, Mr James Pilditch.

Its client list includes American Express, BAT Industries, Beechams and Unilever. It launched Allied Breweries into the fast food business and designed the packaging for a range of Yardley toiletries. Profits last year were £110,000.

Reardon Smith expects second-half improvement

Despite a sharp downturn at the half-way stage, Cardiff-based shipping group Reardon Smith is looking forward to going back into the black in the second half although it is unlikely to be out of the red for the full year.

Trading profits fell from £1m to £950,000 while turnover rose slightly from £10.3m to £11.2m in the six months to September 30, 1979. But the group pointed out that the 1978 interim results included the sale of a 53 per cent share in an oil rig which otherwise would have produced £13,000 trading profit.

The share price, which fell 1p before the announcement, went back to 69p during the day.

The board said that since the loan repayments on the rig were higher than the depreciation rate and interest rates have increased since 1978, cash

flow has improved as a result of the sale.

The main reasons for the group's difficulties in the first half were due to its inability to take full advantage of increased freight levels because of forward commitments.

The weakness of the dollar, increases in bunker costs, port charges, storing and general running costs all took their toll. Exchange losses were £120,000 compared with a £13,000 gain. But Mr Charles Charrington, the chairman, said that the second half would show considerable improvement, providing there was no material change in the board's assumptions, and should show a profit after depreciation.

Reardon has further deferred its loan capital repayments until the end of 1980. Borrowings currently stand at £16m. There is again no interim dividend as a result of loan terms.

Options

Dealers reported further active interest in traded options yesterday, while the remainder of the market kicked its heels. Total contracts, nevertheless, fell from 1,033 to 573.

The BP April 400p series continued to draw active support accounting for 81 of its total amount of 125 contracts. Racial another favourite of late accounted 110 contracts with the February 240p series drawing attention.

Traditional options had a better time of it with oil shares continuing to prove popular although a put of 250,000 shares was made in Town & City.

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John Foord

plant and machinery valuers

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8. 5 Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 18

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	PE	1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE	1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE	1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE	1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE	1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE	
BRITISH FUNDS																																													
BRITISH FUNDS	999	0.00	0.00	12.17	999	999	999	999	999	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	999	999	999	999	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	999	999	999	999	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	999	999	999	999	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	999	999	999	999	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																																													
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ABF Holdings	175	0.00	0.00	12.17	ABF Holdings	175	175	175	175	175	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	175	175	175	175	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	175	175	175	175	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	175	175	175	175	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17							
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Abad Group	100	0.00	0.00	12.17	Abad Group	100	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17							
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Abad Group	100	0.00	0.00	12.17	Abad Group	100	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17							
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Abad Group	100	0.00	0.00	12.17	Abad Group	100	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.17							
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£10,000 plus Appointments

MANAGER FOR SPORTS COMPLEX RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

For client in Saudi Arabia we are looking for a General Manager to be responsible for the day-to-day all round management of a sports complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The sports complex includes facilities for bowling, squash, tennis and catering facilities.

The man we are looking for should have previous experience in management of a leisure, sports or similar service complex. The responsibilities include promotional, financial, personnel and other commercial functions.

Suitable tax-free salary by negotiation. Compensation package will include free accommodation, car and other overseas benefits.

Reply to:— AMF International Limited
25-28 Old Burlington Street, London W1X 2BA
Please mark envelope "Sports Complex—Riyadh".

MARCHMONT ASSOCIATES TAX CONSULTANT

A multi-disciplinary firm of tax specialists based in Surrey, but also having offices in London, urgently requires an additional member of the team, who would work at the Haslemere office.

The successful applicant is likely to be someone who has gained considerable experience of tax matters with a firm of accountants. One of the responsibilities of the position will be to provide pre-estimating accounts with answers to straightforward tax problems over the telephone although the central function will be to advise a wide range of clients, both corporate and personal, about virtually every aspect of direct taxation.

It is emphasised that the work does not involve esoteric or artificial tax arrangements but consists of giving sound advice about tax planning for businessmen and practising accountants.

The starting salary will be at least £12,000 p.a. and there are pension and P.H.I. arrangements. For the right candidate, the starting salary is negotiable upwards and, in any event, would be reviewed regularly on a generous basis.

Applications should be sent to Mr. M. J. Quinlan, F.C.A., Marchmont Associates, London, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2PH. Tel. Haslemere (0428) 53841.

Appointments Vacant

TRANSLATOR (English as mother tongue)

Position open at German Foundation for International Development, Language Service, Berlin (West).

Duties will entail the translation of highly specialized texts in the fields of development aid, economics, public administration, finance administration, industrial occupations promotion, and educational assistance, mainly from German into English but also from a second language (French) into English. A profound knowledge of German is essential.

He/she should have a degree in modern languages and several years of professional experience, preferably as translator in an international organization.

Remuneration will be in line with the stipulations of the Public Service in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Applications supported by a statement of qualifications and experience, full curriculum vitae, and a photo should be submitted as soon as possible to Box 0407 F, The Times.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

1 MANAGER for new branch of small group of Employment Agencies General Agency.

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Based in Hong Kong, the Chief Press Officer's duties will primarily encompass press and public relations in connection with the council's overseas trade promotions and incoming business group visits to Hong Kong. Other duties will range from speech writing to conducting press conferences. The Chief Press Officer will, in conjunction with H.K.T.D.C.'s publicity department, control and organize an effective overseas press service in connection with the council's 22 world wide offices. Strong management and motivational skills are a prime requirement and will be rewarded with an attractive salary. Applicants are invited to apply for this position which offers a salary in the region of £12,000 per annum together with housing allowance, free medical and a gratuity.

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Applications are invited for the Headmastership of Shrewsbury School, which will be vacant owing to the appointment of Mr. W. E. K. Anderson as Head Master of Eton. The new Headmaster will be required to take office in September 1980, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governing Body, Arlington Hall, The Schools, Shrewsbury, to whom applications together with the names of not more than three referees should be sent by February 22.

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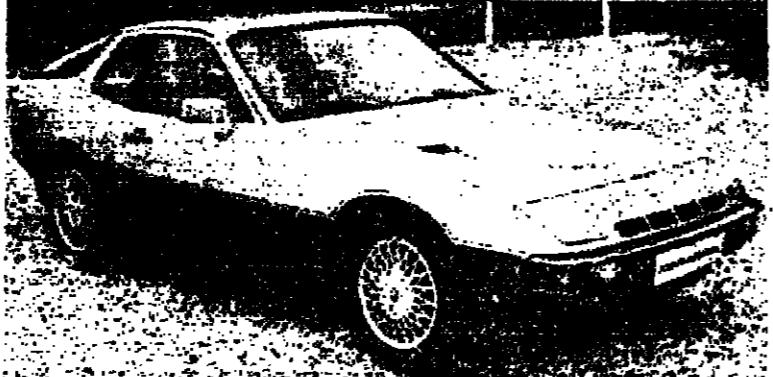
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Motoring

BL call to 'buy British' is not enough

The impression gained from the scores of letters that have arrived at *The Times* in response to Sir Michael Edwards's call to "buy British" is that patriotism, in adapting the words of Nurse Cawell in a very different context, will not be enough. Though some readers have lined up solidly behind the BL chairman, the great majority are impressed by his appeal. To be persuaded to buy BL, they need to be convinced that the cars are available, reliable and competitive, which they feel is not the case at the moment.

The fact that BL has lost sales through not having cars in the showrooms at the right time is almost too obvious to require comment. Last year, in addition to BL's many internal disputes, there were damaging strikes by lorry drivers and engineering workers; now we have a national steel strike. No wonder that customers get tired of waiting and take their business to another franchise, probably foreign.



Non-thirsty performance—the Porsche 924 Turbo

The second reason readers give for not buying BL cars is poor quality and reliability. So many letters have described, often more in sorrow than in anger, how long-standing loyalty has been eroded by shoddy finish and mechanical defects. If these letters are any guide, there is a widespread disenchantment with BL products.

There are, unfortunately, no objective data on reliability. Reports in the consumer magazine, *Which?*, suggest that some (by no means all) foreign makes are better than British, but is the *Which?* sample big enough and representative? This week I was talking to a dealer who had held Leyland European and British franchises and maintained that the Japanese cars are by far the most reliable he has handled. Is his experience typical?

What can be said about BL cars is that they tend to be launched with serious faults that condemn the

model for years afterwards. It happened with the Allegro, the Princess, the TR7 and, more recently, the Rover. No British car has been so enthusiastically received as the Rover, but a Car of the Year award is no consolation for repeated breakdowns. Second-hand Rover prices tell their own, sad story.

But there have been letters from owners expressing complete satisfaction with BL cars and wondering what the fuss is about. And reliable or not, there is still strong evidence to suggest that taking into account items like the cost of parts and insurance, British cars are cheaper to run. Certainly the fleet market, for which cost is the most important factor, has tended to stay loyal.

The third point raised by readers is the general reliability of BL range. Several people regret the absence, since the demise of the Triumph 2000, of a large estate car. A Rover estate does exist, indeed

Sir Michael Edwards drives one, but there are no plans, apparently, to put it into production. Another perceived gap is a small modern hatchback on Golf/Horizon Strada lines. There is also regret at the demise of the Mki.

The other question is whether the cars that do exist are as good, in design, as European and Japanese rivals. That must be a matter of judgment. Mine is that BL's volume cars, particularly, have not been kept as up to date as they should have been. The Mini is 20 years old, the Dolomite 15, the Maxi 11 and the Marina nine.

BL has an impressive new model programme, with the Mini Metro due to appear in the autumn, the Honda in 1981, the LC10 small hatchback in 1982 and the LC11 medium saloon in 1983. The Marina is to get a new bodyshell and the Princess a facelift. But will these much-needed heart transplants be in time to save the patient?

Road Test : Porsche 924

Turbo

Turbocharging, the harnessing of exhaust gases to boost engine power, has suddenly become fashionable, with car makers from Detroit to Tokyo announcing turbo models in such quick succession that it is hard to keep up with them. Ironically, this concerted move towards more powerful cars is very much connected with the energy crisis.

The word "turbo" generally means high fuel consumption. But with oil scarce and expensive, it is getting more difficult to justify thirsty cars in the United States car makers

face fines if they fail to meet federal fuel consumption standards. On the other hand, there is still a demand for performance cars and the dilemma for manufacturers is how to satisfy it without squandering fuel.

Turbocharging provides the answer, greatly increasing the power of an engine without a proportionate fuel penalty. The Porsche 924 makes the point very well. Even in its "ordinary" form, the four cylinder 1984 cc engine is hardly sluggish; but fitted with a turbocharger, it produces 170 bhp against 125, with a big increase in torque and performance figures that are astonishing for a two-litre.

The 0 to 60 mph acceleration time of 7 seconds and top speed of 140 mph puts the car up with the fastest six and eight cylinder models. And that is not the end of the story for the most impressive aspect of the turbo is the flexibility it provides for overtaking. To open the throttle from around 50 mph is to unleash an exhilarating surge of power that will double the car's speed before you can spot that police car in the driving mirror. The top speed is, of course, academic (except on Porsche's home territory, Germany), but it does underline the car's potential.

To get the full effect of the turbo, the engine must be turning over at about 3,000 rpm, which means that flexibility down, say, from 50 mph is less impressive unless the car is in gear. In traffic, indeed, it is unlikely that the turbo will be used at all and overall it might be in action no more than 10 or 15 per

cent of the time, depending on how hard the car is driven.

But it is precisely this limited use that enables fuel consumption to remain at a respectable level. The Porsche should give about 22 mpg in town and up to 27 mpg on the open road which, bearing in mind its performance potential, are excellent returns.

Unfortunately, enjoyment of the car's performance is marred by its gearbox, one of the most awkward I have come across. To start with, first is located not "over and up" as on most boxes, but over and down, and it can be very difficult to engage.

Unwary drivers assuming that first is in the usual place will find themselves in reverse, a disconcerting experience. The movement from first across to second is so slight that it is easy to slip straight into fourth. The other complaint is the wide spacing in ratio between first and second. Owners will presumably get used to these foibles, but after a week with the car I was still struggling.

Handling is generally up to the demands of the extra power. Though low geared, the steering is very precise and the small wheel a pleasure to use. The all-independent suspension helps to keep the car firmly on the road, with little body-roll on corners, while spoilers, front and back, ensure stability at speed.

The ride is firm and may not be to all tastes; the seats are also firm but well shaped. A tall driver will find his seat pressing up against the steering wheel, which height adjustment would be useful. The car claims to be a "two-plus-two", but the back seats are

cramped, even for children; they do, however, fold forward to increase what is otherwise modest boot space.

The 924 Turbo is far from being a quiet car, though for many the throaty engine will be part of the appeal. Less defensible is the inconsistent road noise. Standard equipment includes wash-wipe for the headlamps and rear screen, electric windows and a radio-cassette fitted with an electric aerial. The car costs £13,629, a lot of money for a two-litre, but not for the performance it offers, and it looks to be built to typically robust Porsche standards.

More for the Four

Nearly 19 years after its introduction, the little, ugly but obsoletical Renault 4 shows no sign of flagging. This week a new version is announced, the GTL, which, by fitting a bigger 1108 cc engine, gives better performance and fuel consumption than the 845 cc model (which remains in production). Scoring 34.8 mpg on the official urban cycle and 52.3 mpg at 56 mph, the 4 GTL ranks with the most economical cars sold in Britain. It costs £3,050.

The first postwar Renault with front-wheel drive, the 4 is the most successful French car ever produced. It is assembled in 11 countries and during 1980 sales should pass six million, about £1 million more than the Mini which had two years' start.

Peter Waymark

CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

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begun to show thy servants thy
glory in the land of the living
for what God is there to heaven
or earth, that can be nearer
than this?—Deuteronomy 3: 24.

BIRTHS

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Gillian and Michael, a son
and daughter (Sarah), a brother
for Steven.

BATE-WILLIS.—On 29th Jan
1980, to Ruth Jane and
Christopher, a daughter.

BOYCE.—On 29th January at St
Terese's, Wimborne, to Joy and
John, a son (Matthew), a
daughter (Natalie), Katherine
and a sister for Nicola and
Timothy.

BOYLE.—On January 29th, to
Vivien and John, a son (Chris),
a daughter (Meredith), a
grandson (Matthew).

JONCOURT.—On 29th January
1980, at Kingston Hospital to
Peter and Linda, a son (Christopher).

LEWIS.—On 29th January, to
Peter and Linda, a son (Christopher).

LYNCH.—On 29th January, to
Peter and Linda, a son (Christopher).

MARSH.—On 29th January, to
Peter and Linda, a son (Christopher).

MCINTOSH.—On 29th January,
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